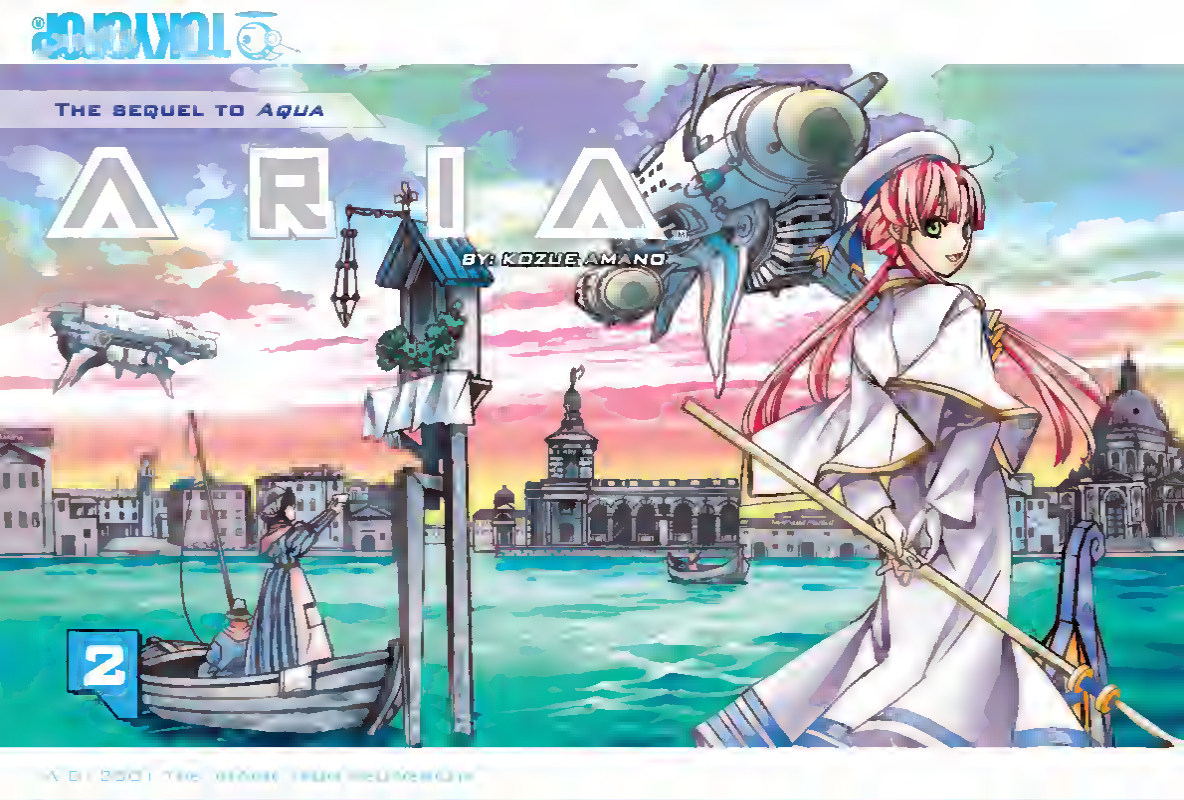

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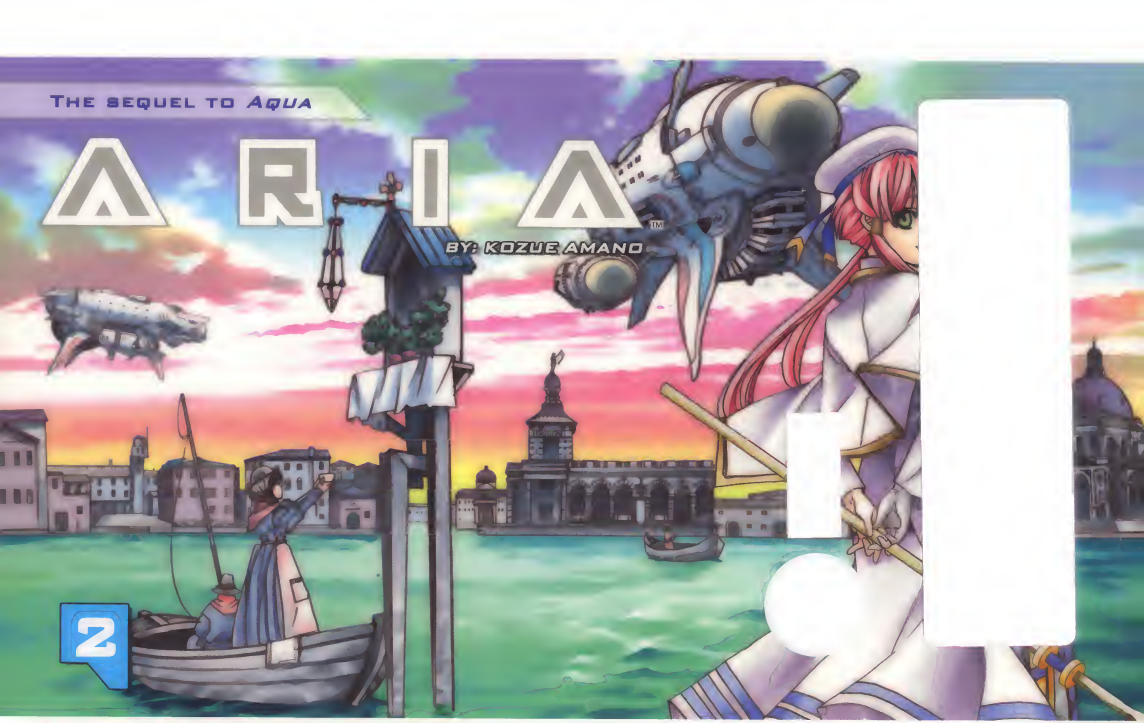
THE SEQUEL TO AQUA
ARIA™
BY: KOZUE AMANO
2

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Sci-Fi/Drama
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ARIA™

INSPIRED THE ANIME!

Akari Mizunashi is training to become an undine—a gondolier in the city of Neo-Venezia on the watery planet of Aqua. Along the way, she witnesses some wondrous sights as she discoverb exciting new things about herself and her city.

Akari is about to experience her first winter on Aqua with a new friend—a snow sug—and a trip to a hot spring. She also learns asout Aqua's underground inhasitants and discovers the crucial role they play in maintaining the planet's gravity. And sefore she knows it, it's time for the Venetian New Year's festival, a celebration full of magic and sparkle!

ARIA

KOZUE AMANO PRESENTS.

VOYAGE 2

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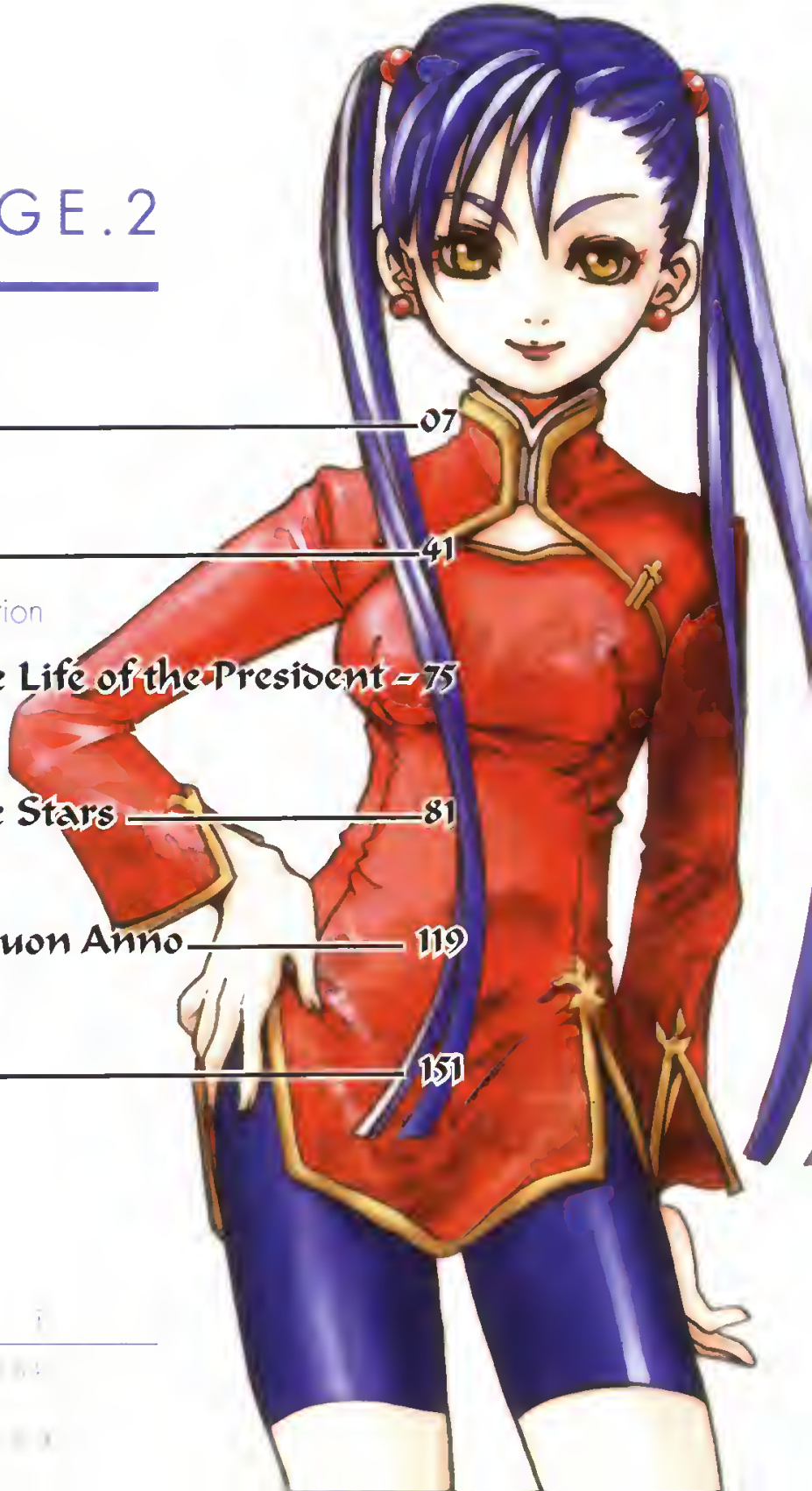
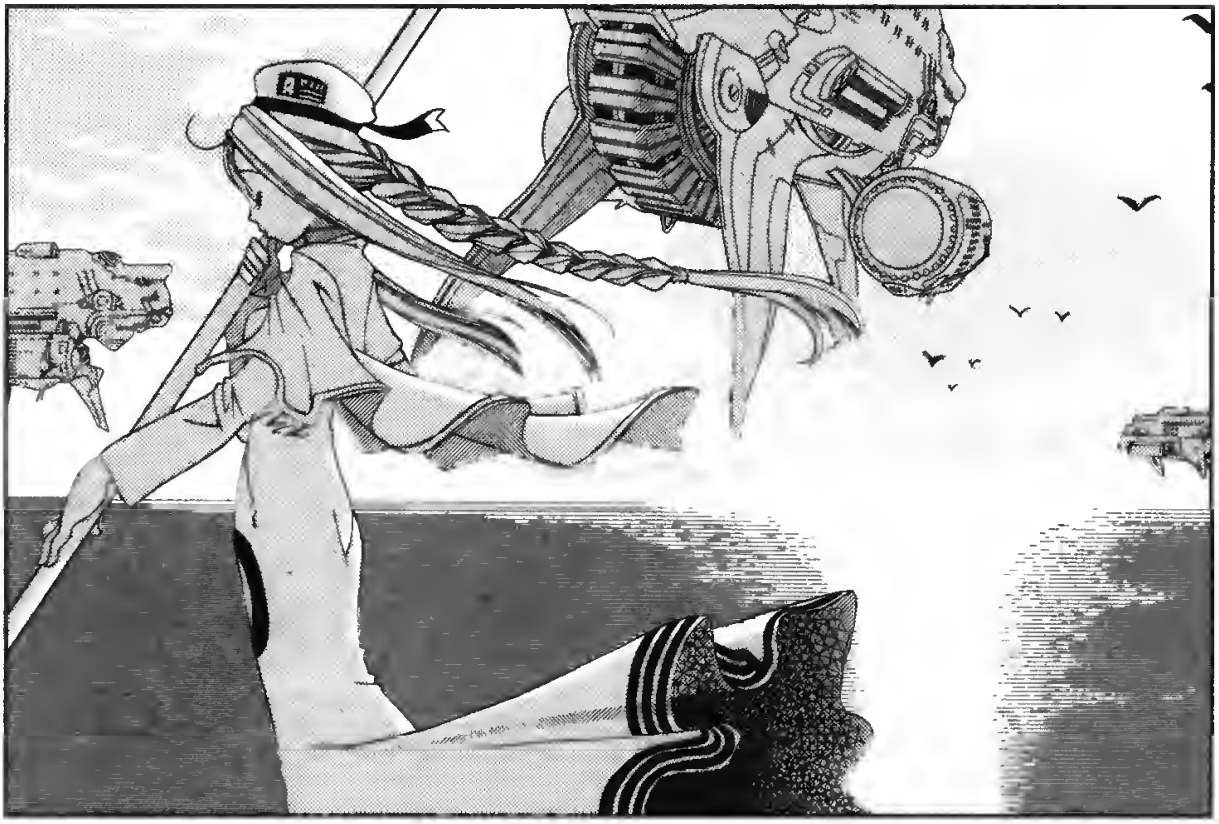


STAFF

Art Navigation

Cover Design

Special Thanks



STORY SO FAR

One-hundred and fifty years in the future, terraforming on Mars has caused its polar ice caps to melt, covering 90 percent of the planet's surface with water and making it habitable for humans. Mars is now referred to as Aqua, the water planet, while Earth has become known as Manhome. On Aqua lies the port town of Neo-Venezia, which is modeled after the Jtalian city Venice on Manhome. Venice itself ceased to exist in the latter half of the 21st century. Much like Venice, Neo-Venezia features a labyrinth of water canals navigated by gondolas.

Enter Akari, who leaves Manhome for Neo-Venezia to become a gondolier, known on Aqua as an undine. She begins working as an undine apprentice for Aria Company, which is run by President Aria...a Martian cat. Jt isn't long before she is promoted to journeyman status, but she has yet to become a full-fledged undine, which would mean that she could take on passengers without having an instructor on board.

Because it takes the planet Aqua twice as long to orbit the sun as Manhome, a year on Aqua is 24 months. Akari has been on Aqua for less than one such year, and she is constantly learning about the many facets that make Neo-Venezia such a unique and wondrous place. She's enjoyed spring and summer in Neo-Venezia so far, but now she'll have to bundle up for her first winter on Aqua!

Characters

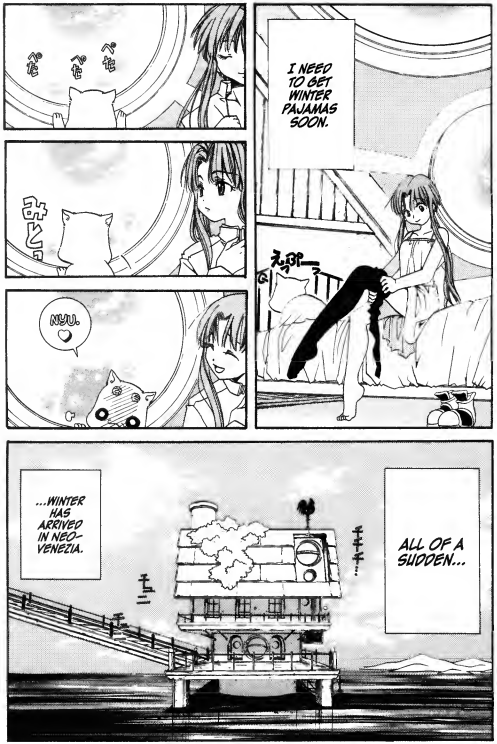
Akari
Akari has traveled by herself far from the world she knew on Manhome to spend her days out on the picturesque waters of Neo-Venezia. For an easygoing girl who is constantly delighted to learn and explore, the relaxed, friendly atmosphere of Neo-Venezia suits her well.

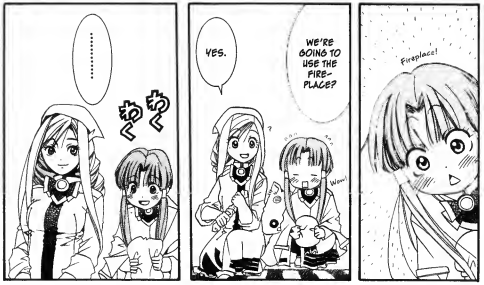
Aika
Aika is Akari's more easily irked, serious-minded friend who works for Aria Company's sister gondola company, Himeya. Like Akari, she has been promoted from an apprentice to a journeyman.

Alicia
Alicia is a full-fledged undine who works for Aria Company. She and Akari are also close friends. Akari looks up to Alicia, who regards Akari with a mentor-like, older-sister manner.

President Aria
The Martian cat who is president of Aria Company. He seems to like Akari quite a bit. Martian cats are as intelligent as humans, but they don't speak.

Akatsuki
He is what is known as a salamander. Salamanders are the folks in charge of maintaining the weather-control systems on the floating islands that sit above the planet. Although he generally has an aggressive disposition, he tends to soften up around Alicia...


I NEED TO GET WINTER PAJAMAS SOON.
NYU.
...WINTER HAS ARRIVED IN NEO-VENEZIA.
ALL OF A SUDDEN...
GOOD MORNING!
BRRR!
WOW, THE WINDOW'S COVERED WITH FROST!
IT WAS FREEZING WHEN I WOKE UP THIS MORNING.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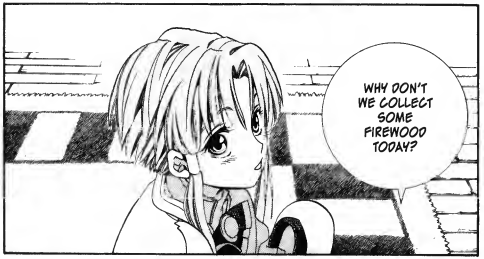
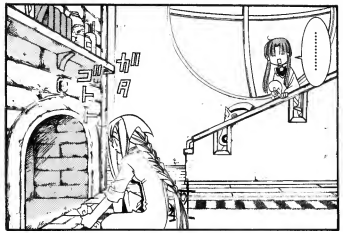
そくそく
YES.
WE'RE GOING TO USE THE FIRE-PLACE?
Wow!
Fireplace!


WHY DON'T WE COLLECT SOME FIREWOOD TODAY?

OKAY!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Rattle
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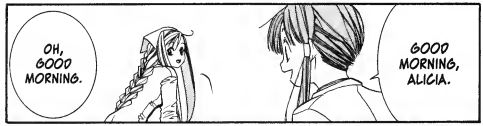
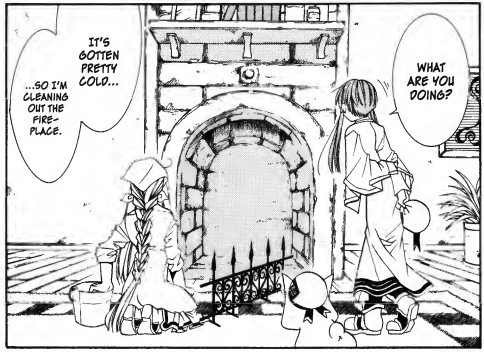
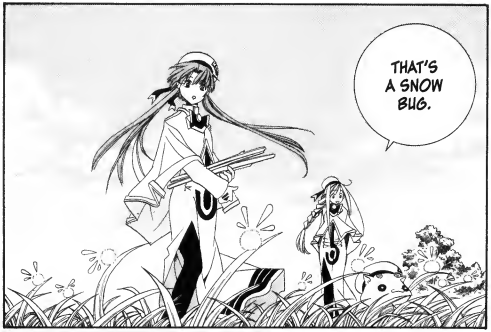
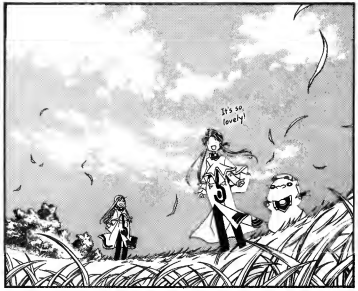
Rattle


OH, GOOD MORNING.
GOOD MORNING, ALICIA.

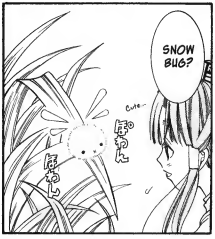

IT'S GOTTEN PRETTY COLD...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
...SO I'M CLEANING OUT THE FIRE-PLACE.


THAT'S A SNOW BUG.

I'M GOING TO COLLECT LOTS OF FIREWOOD!
Yeah!
Oh, my!


It's so lovely!

YES, THEY APPEAR SUDDENLY IN WINTER.
SNOW BUGS IN AQUA ARE MUCH LARGER THAN THOSE ON MANHOME.


SNOW BUG?
Cute~
ぽてん
ぽてん

OOOH!
BECAUSE OF THEIR ROUND FLOSS AND SNOW-WHITE COLOR, THEY'RE CALLED SNOW BUGS.
THEY'RE ACTUALLY WOOLLY APHIDS.

What's this?
A DANDE-LION?
ぽてん
ぽてん

ぽやん

SOON, WE'LL BE SEEING THEM FLY THROUGH TOWN.
WHY DON'T WE BRING THIS ONE HOME NOW?
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AQUA'S SNOW BUGS ARE VERY FRIENDLY.

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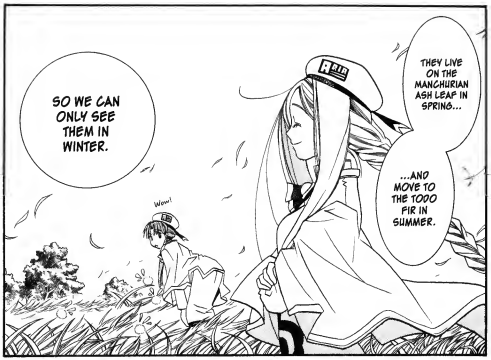
SO WE CAN ONLY SEE THEM IN WINTER.
THEY LIVE ON THE MANCHURIAN ASH LEAF IN SPRING...
...AND MOVE TO THE TOOO FIR IN SUMMER.
Wow!

OKAY, YOU COME WITH ME. ♡
MY WORD!

……
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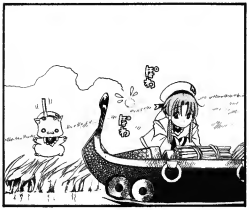
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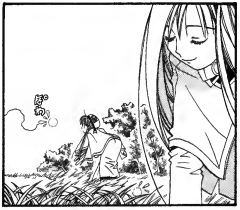
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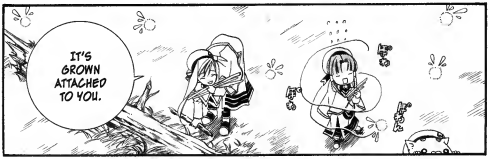
IT'S GROWN ATTACHED TO YOU.
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ぷる
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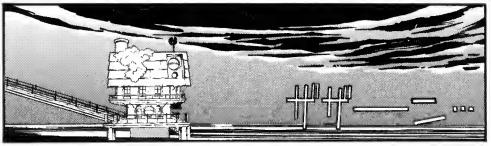
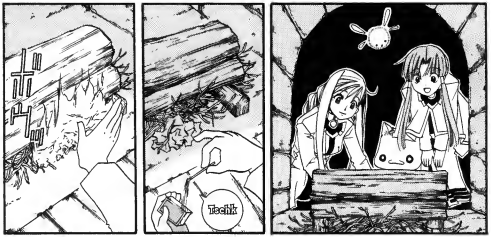
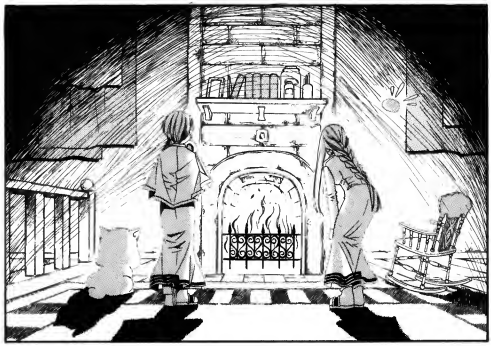
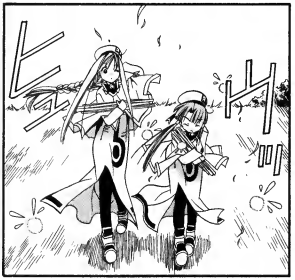



Tschik

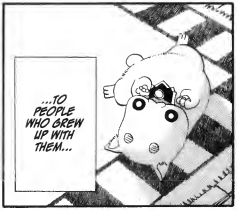


SO THE SNOW BUGS...
...HAVE ARRIVED, HUH? WINTER IS HERE ALREADY.

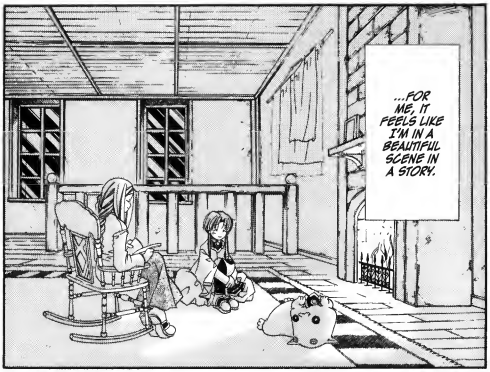
INDEED!
WE FOUND LOTS OF FIREWOOD.

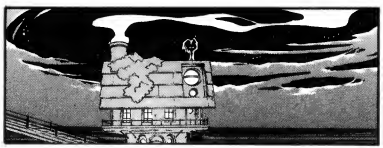


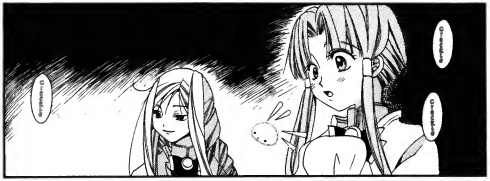
Brrr!


...TO PEOPLE WHO GREW UP WITH THEM...

THOUGH FIREPLACES MAY BE NATURAL...


...FOR ME, IT FEELS LIKE I'M IN A BEAUTIFUL SCENE IN A STORY.

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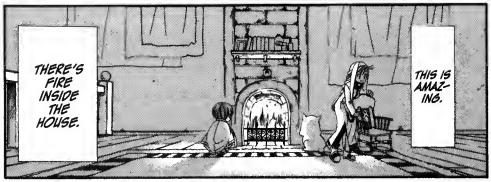
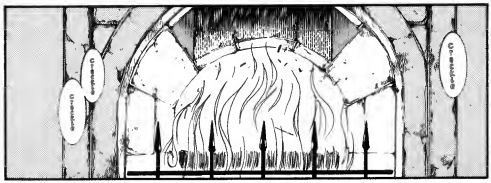

THERE'S FIRE INSIDE THE HOUSE.
THIS IS AMAZ-ING.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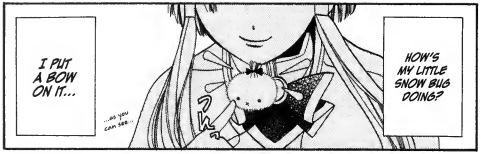
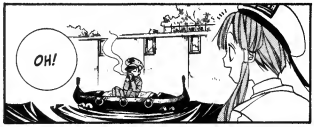
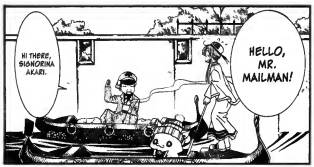

I PUT A BOW ON IT...
...no you can see.
HOW'S MY LITTLE SNOW BUG DOING?


OH!

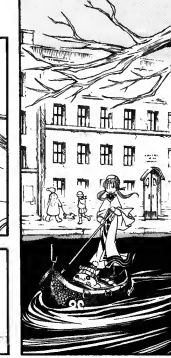

HI THERE, SIGNORINA AKARI.
HELLO, MR. MAILMAN!

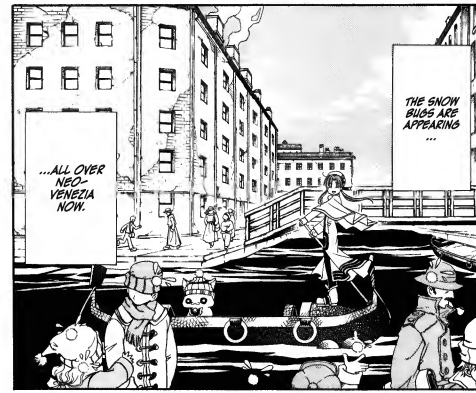
WANT SOME?
It's just tea.
SURE! ♡

ARE YOU DONE WITH WORK TODAY?
I AM.
Good evening.

IT GOES EVERYWHERE WITH ME.

SUDDENLY, IT'S GOTTEN SUPER COLD.
Hi-ff?

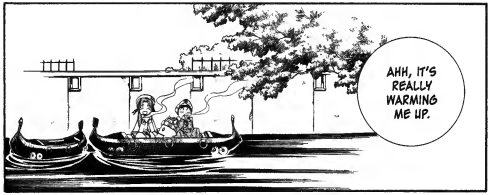



...ALL OVER NEO-VENEZIA NOW.
THE SNOW BUGS ARE APPEARING ...

THEY'RE VERY PERCEPTIVE OF TEMPERATURE CHANGE AND DAY LENGTH.
WHEN THEY GO, IT MEANS WE'RE EXPECTING THE FIRST SNOWFALL.

I SEE... IT'S NOT GOING TO STAY.

H-HA H-HA!
YOU COULD SAY SNOW BUGS ARE WINTER'S MESSENGERS-- THEY FORETELL THE FIRST SNOW.

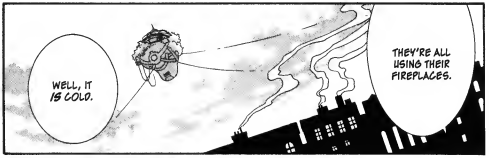

AHH, IT'S REALLY WARMING ME UP.

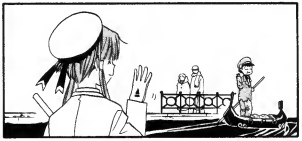
IN ORDER TO SURVIVE WINTER...
...THEY RETURN TO THE MANCHURIAN ASHES BEFORE IT GETS TOO COLD.

ISN'T IT CUTE?
YOUR SNOW BUG IS STYLISH.

YOU KNOW, WHEN IT GETS REALLY COLD LIKE THIS...
...IT MEANS THEY WON'T BE AROUND MUCH LONGER.

HUH?
YEAH.
Didn't you know?
They're hunters?


WELL, IT IS COLD.
THEY'RE ALL USING THEIR FIREPLACES.



LET'S GO HOME.
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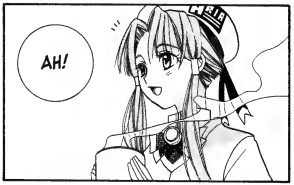
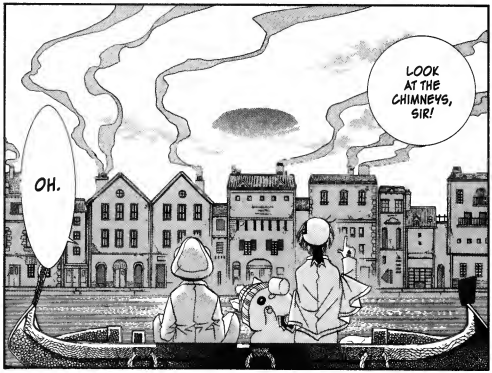
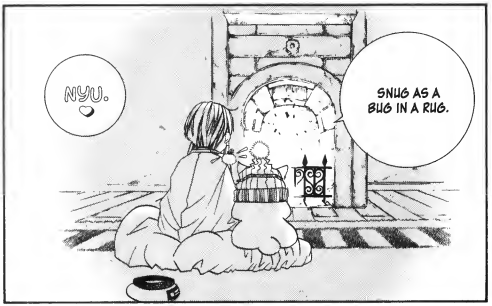

AH!

That was a strange laugh.


OH.
LOOK AT THE CHIMNEYS, SIR!


NYU.
SNUG AS A BUG IN A RUG.

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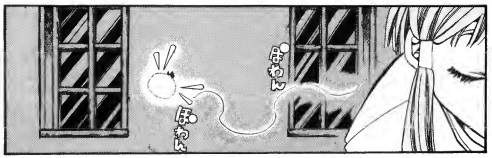
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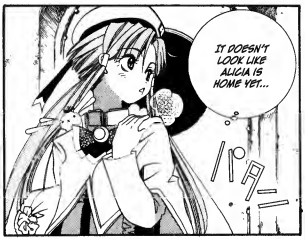
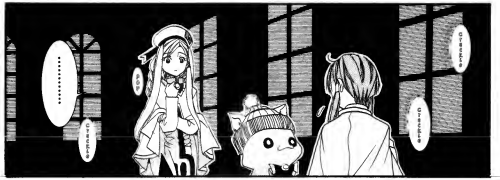

IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ALICIA IS HOME YET...
パターニ

Brrr
Brrr
ホスッ
トス…

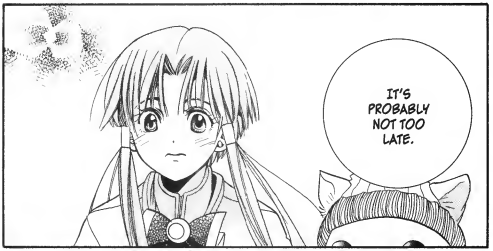
Brrr
ぶるる

I'M HOME!

ぐでぐで
ぴ
とっ
ぐでぐで
AAAH! THAT FEELS BETTER...

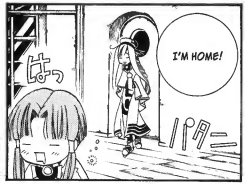

……
Sigh
Sigh

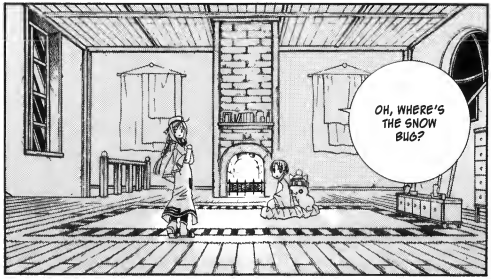
DO YOU WANT TO SEE YOUR FRIEND OFF, AKARI?

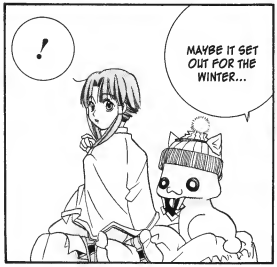

IT'S PROBABLY NOT TOO LATE.

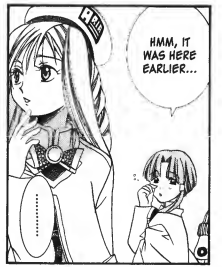
YES!

Sigh
IT'S SO COLD TODAY.
WELCOME HOME, ALICIA.

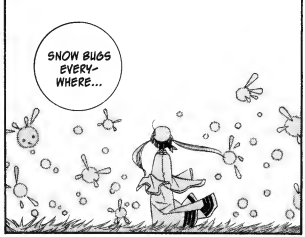

I'M HOME!

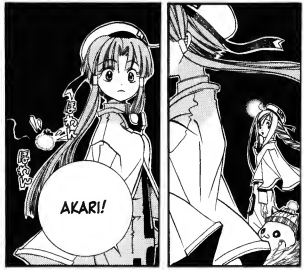

OH, WHERE'S THE SNOW BUG?

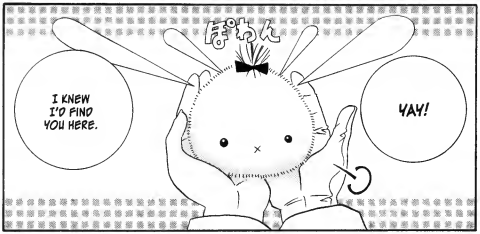

!
MAYBE IT SET OUT FOR THE WINTER…

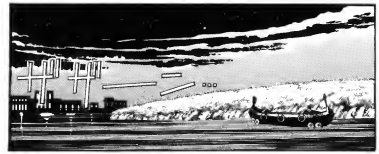

HMM, IT WAS HERE EARLIER…
……

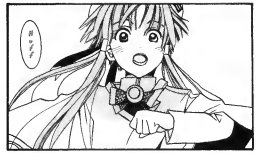
AH!
ぽわん


SNOW BUGS EVERY-WHERE...


ぽわん
AKARI!


ぽわん
I KNEW I'D FIND YOU HERE.
YAY!

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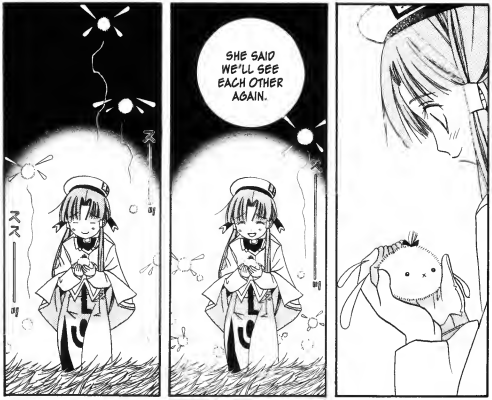
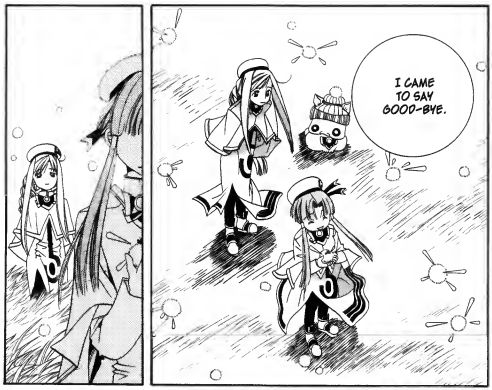
ぽわん
ぽわん

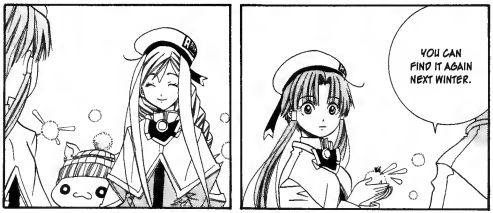
!

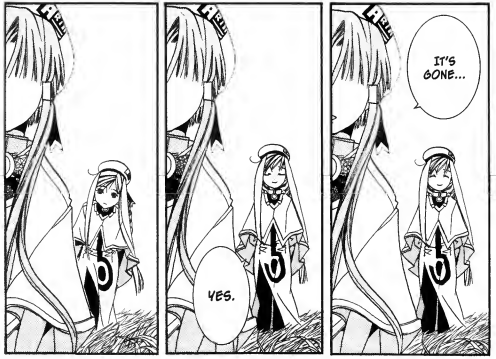

SHE SAID WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN.

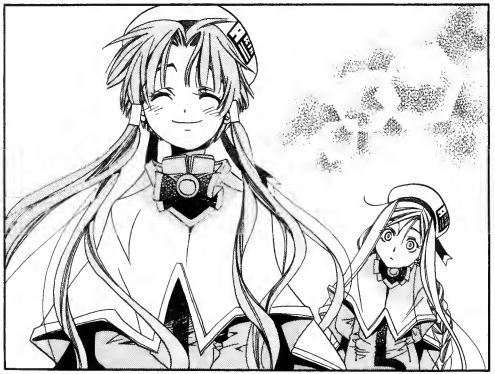
Vwoosh

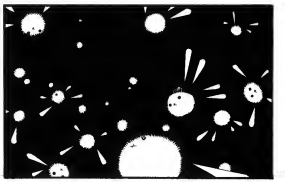

I CAME TO SAY GOOD-BYE.

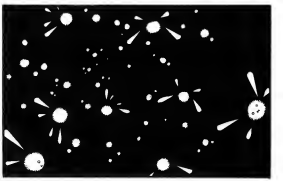
THE SNOW BUGS ON AQUA HAVE A LONG LIFE SPAN.
DON'T WORRY, AKARI.

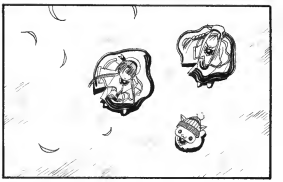

YOU CAN FIND IT AGAIN NEXT WINTER.


IT'S GONE...
YES.

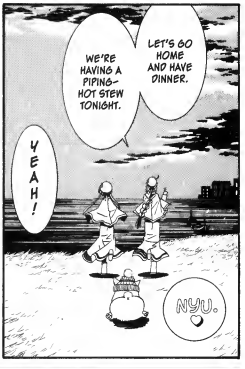




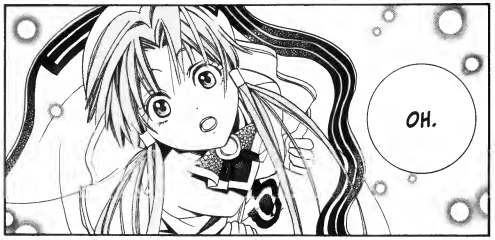




I'm starving.


LET'S GO HOME AND HAVE DINNER.
WE'RE HAVING A PIPING-HOT STEW TONIGHT.
YEAH!
NYU.

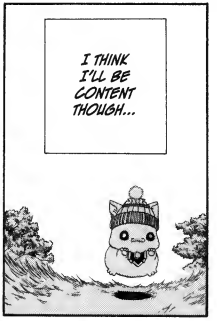
?


OH.

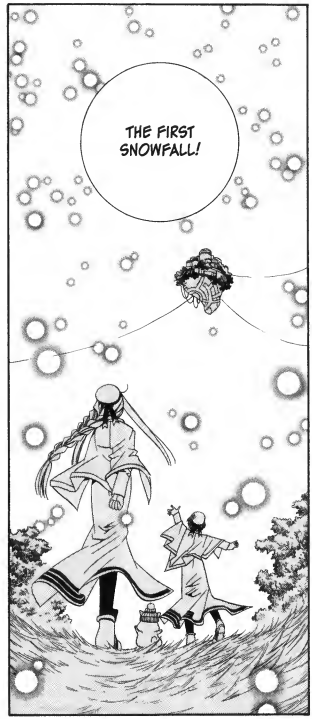
THAT IS HOW MY SNOW BUG LEFT.
?

...AS LONG AS I KNOW IT'S HAPPY SOMEWHERE ON AQUA.
ヒョオオオオ

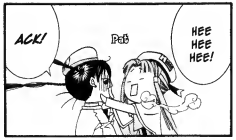
I'M REALLY GOING TO MISS IT UNTIL NEXT WINTER.

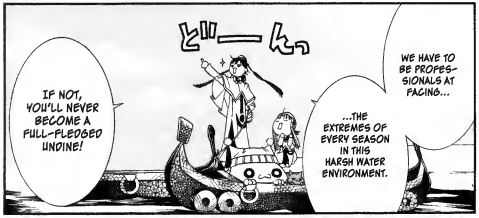

I THINK I'LL BE CONTENT THOUGH...

Navigation07 Utopia



I'M SORRY.
That was cold!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

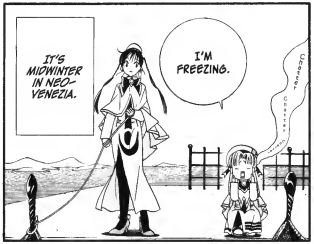

ACK!
Pat
HEE HEE HEE!

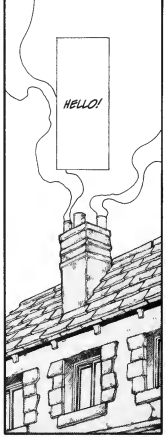

とぃーーんっ
IF NOT, YOU'LL NEVER BECOME A FULL-FLEDGED UNDINE!
...THE EXTREMES OF EVERY SEASON IN THIS HARSH WATER ENVIRONMENT.
WE HAVE TO BE PROFESSIONALS AT PACING...

I HAVE TO ADMIT, THIS COLD MAKES ME WANT TO SIT IN A HOT SPRING.

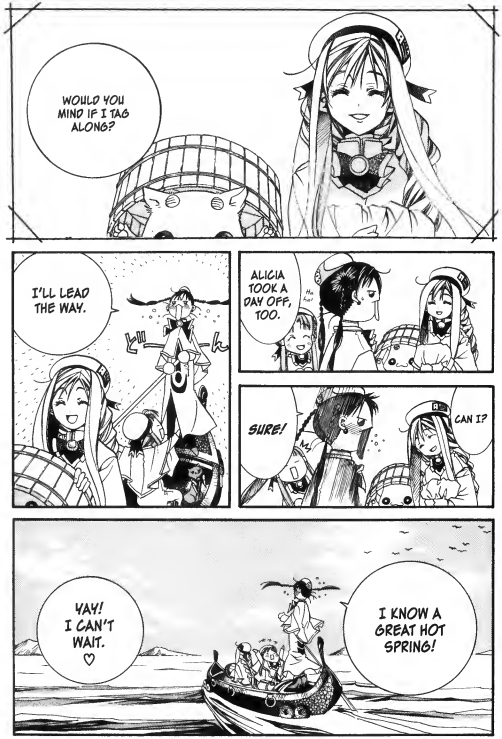
BUT I'M FR-FREEEEZING.
.....
Oh boy

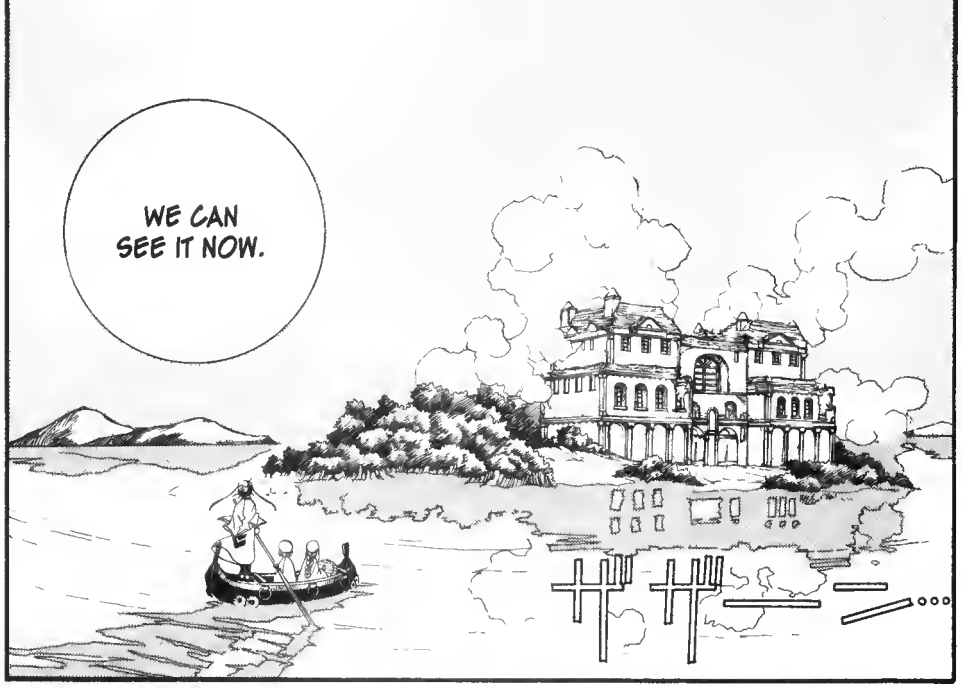
BRRR...
GETTING A LIGHT SNOWFALL IS COMMON THESE DAYS.

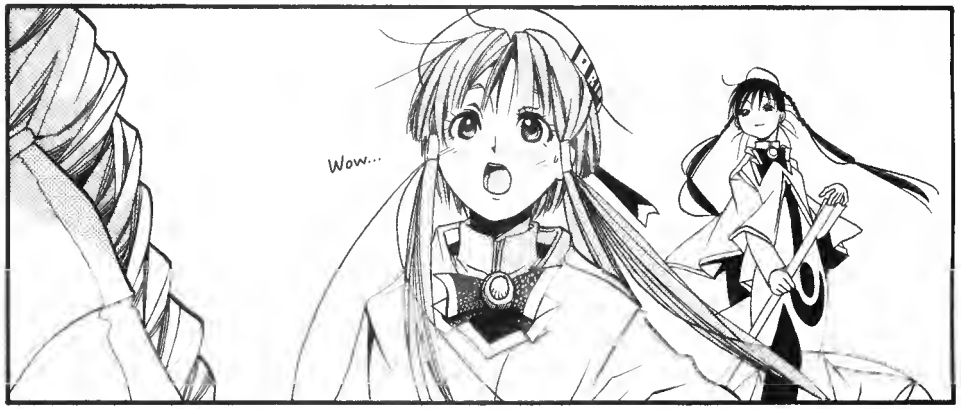

IT'S MIDWINTER IN NEO-VENEZIA.
I'M FREEZING.
Crunch Crunch

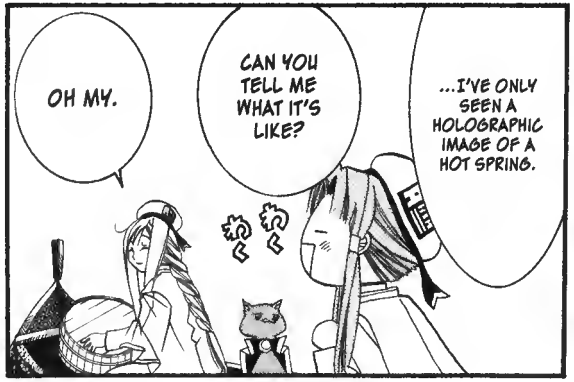

HELLO!

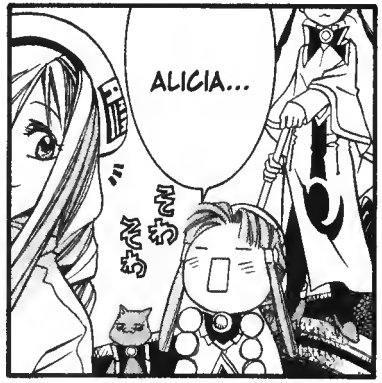
HEY, AKARI. DON'T SLACK OFF DURING PRACTICE!
YOU'LL WARM UP MORE QUICKLY IF YOU KEEP MOVING.

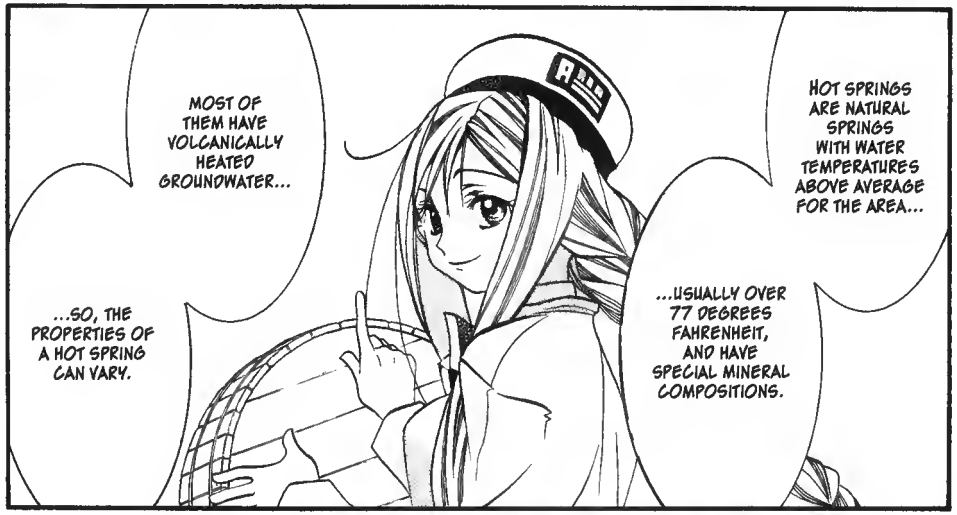

WOULD YOU MIND IF I TAG ALONG?
I'LL LEAD THE WAY.
ALICIA TOOK A DAY OFF, TOO.
SURE!
CAN I?
YAY! I CAN'T WAIT. ♡
I KNOW A GREAT HOT SPRING!
IT'LL WARM UP YOUR WHOLE BODY.
Excited!
Smirk
OH, THAT'S RIGHT... YOU GREW UP ON MANHOME, SO YOU'VE NEVER BEEN TO A NATURAL HOT SPRING.
Nod Nod
...IN A NATURAL HOT SPRING, RIGHT?
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT A BATH...
LET'S DO IT, AIKA!
WHAT IF WE GO THERE ON OUR NEXT DAY OFF?
EH?


WE CAN SEE IT NOW.

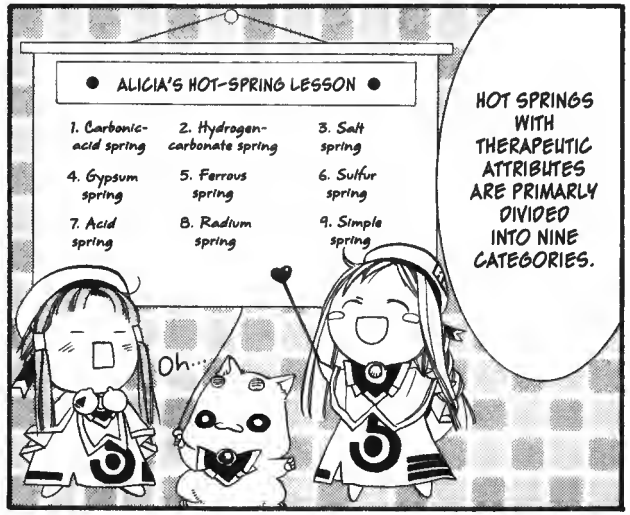

Wow...

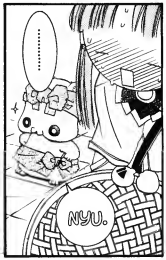

OH MY.
CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT IT'S LIKE?
...I'VE ONLY SEEN A HOLOGRAPHIC IMAGE OF A HOT SPRING.

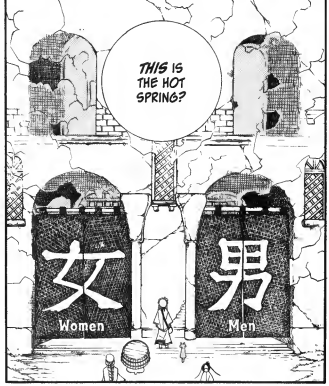

ALICIA...

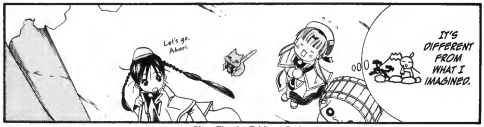

MOST OF THEM HAVE VOLCANICALLY HEATED GROUNDWATER...
HOT SPRINGS ARE NATURAL SPRINGS WITH WATER TEMPERATURES ABOVE AVERAGE FOR THE AREA...
...SO, THE PROPERTIES OF A HOT SPRING CAN VARY.
...USUALLY OVER 77 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT, AND HAVE SPECIAL MINERAL COMPOSITIONS.

LOOK, AKARI.

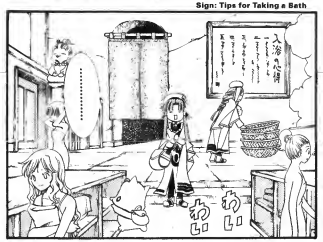

● ALICIA'S HOT-SPRING LESSON ●
1. Carbonic-acid spring
2. Hydrogen-carbonate spring
3. Salt spring
4. Gypsum spring
5. Ferrous spring
6. Sulfur spring
7. Acid spring
8. Radium spring
9. Simple spring
HOT SPRINGS WITH THERAPEUTIC ATTRIBUTES ARE PRIMARLY DIVIDED INTO NINE CATEGORIES.
Oh...



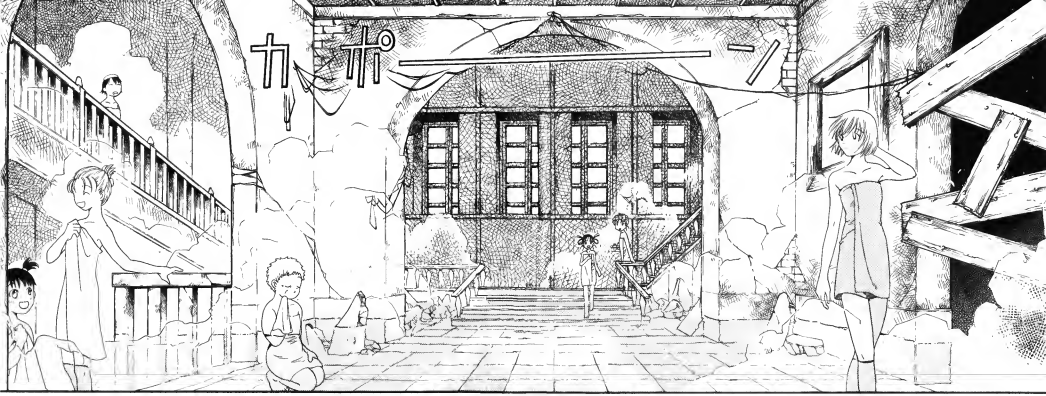


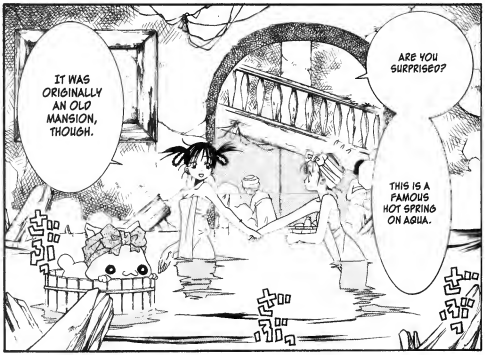


Sign: Tips for Taking a Bath



A SPLASH?
トーン
SPLASH
OKAY, I WILL!
IT'S SLIPPERY, SO BE CAREFUL.
WAIT FOR ME.
もた
もた
SEE YA!
ど
WAIT!
Folding neatly
もた
もた
もた
OH NO!
ガラ
ガラ
Bath set
てっ てっ てっ
WAIT FOR ME!
NO DAWDLING KLUTZES ALLOWED!
べしょっ


カポーン


IT WAS ORIGINALLY AN OLD MANSION, THOUGH.
ARE YOU SURPRISED?
THIS IS A FAMOUS HOT SPRING ON AGUA.
ざざ…
ざざ…
ざざ…

THIS IS A HOT SPRING?
THAT'S RIGHT.

ぽくぽく…
ISN'T THIS NEAT?

IT'S LIKE A FAIRY'S NEST FROM AN OLD FAIRY TALE.

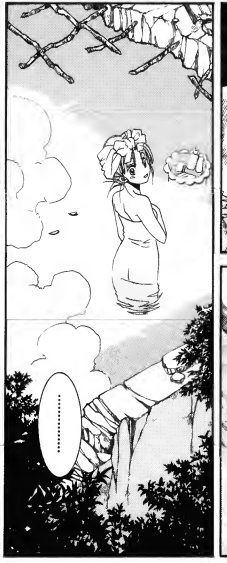
WHAT?
NO EMBARRASSING COMMENTS ALLOWED!
ぴしっ

がば
click
!

Ahhh

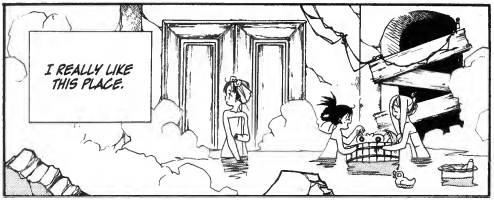
OH WOW!
WHEN THEY DISCOVERED THE SPRING, THEY TURNED THE WHOLE MANSION INTO A BATH.
THE OLD COUPLE WHO OWNED THIS PLACE WAS CLEVER.

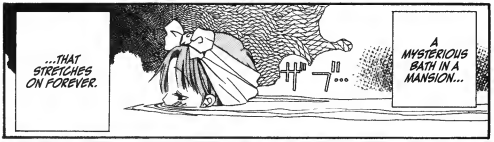
YES!

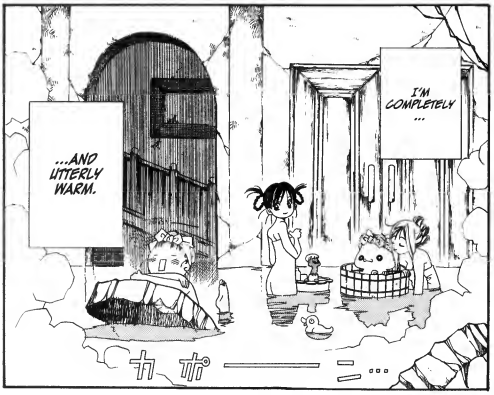

……

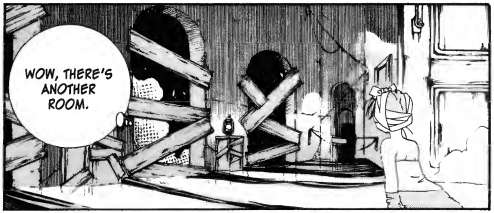
THE STRUCTURE IS DAMAGED FROM AGING…

…BUT DOESN'T IT ADD TO THE ATMOSPHERE?

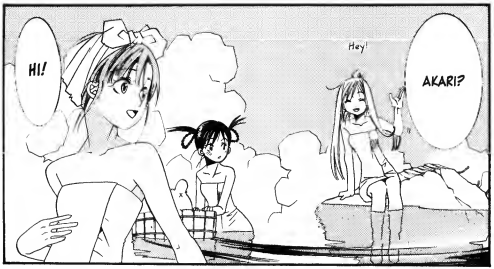


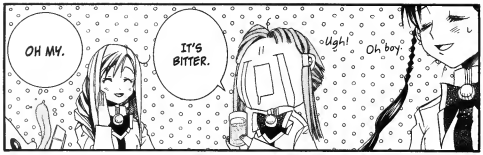




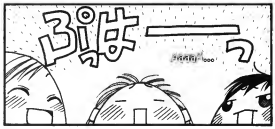


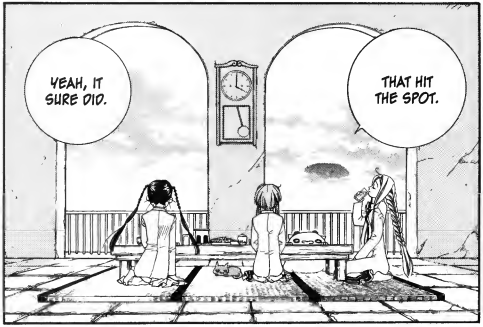
Sign: No Trespassing

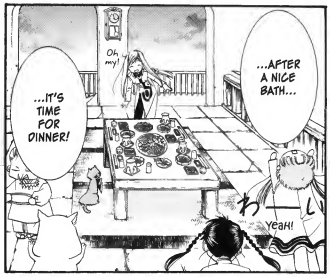



OH MY.
IT'S BITTER.
Ugh!
Oh, boy.

YOU SHOULD HAVE COFFEE MILK AFTER A BATH!


ぷはーっ
PAAH-ooo

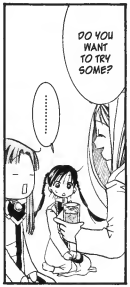

YEAH, IT SURE DID.
THAT HIT THE SPOT.


Oh, my!
...IT'S TIME FOR DINNER!
...AFTER A NICE BATH...
わーい
Yeah!

NOW...

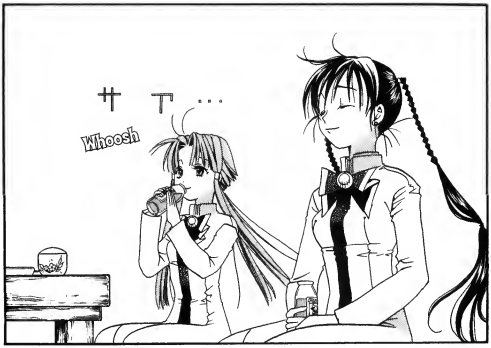
にゃをごきまーす
Let's eat!

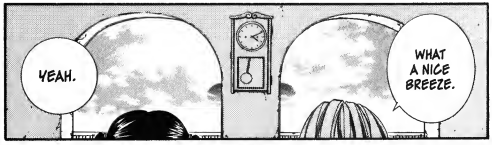
OKAY!
I'm a grown-up!

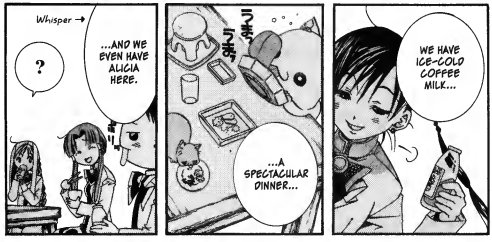

DO YOU WANT TO TRY SOME?

HA HA HA!
OH, ALICIA'S HAVING A BEER!
She's a grown-up

JUST HEAVENLY!


Whoosh


YEAH.
WHAT A NICE BREEZE.

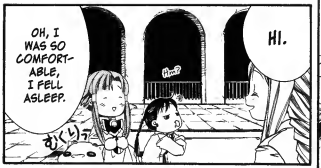

Whisper →
?
...AND WE EVEN HAVE ALICIA HERE.
...A SPECTACULAR DINNER...
WE HAVE ICE-COLD COFFEE MILK...

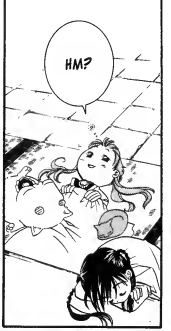
IT'S TRUE THAT PRACTICE IS IMPORTANT...
...BUT I THINK YOU HAVE TO TAKE BREAKS AND RECHARGE, TOO.

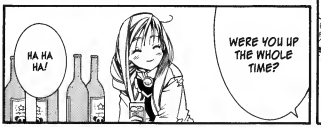
WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO IT...
...I PROBABLY SHOULD'VE USED MY DAY OFF TO PRACTICE.
I FEEL LIKE I'M DOING SOMETHING WRONG.
Unexcused absence

BESIDES...
コト…

...HOT SPRINGS ARE SO POWERFULLY PLEASURABLE...
...THAT YOU CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL GUILTY FOR THE INDULGENCE.


OH, I WAS SO COMFORT-ABLE, I FELL ASLEEP.
HI.
Pant
おくと

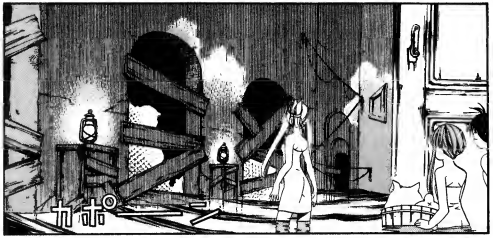

HM?

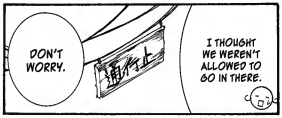

HA HA HA!
WERE YOU UP THE WHOLE TIME?

...LOOK AT THE TIME.
OH DEAR...

IS IT OKAY TO RELAX LIKE THIS?

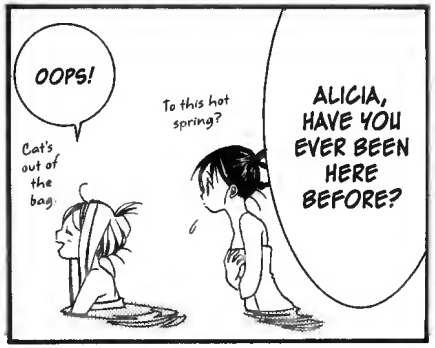
THAT'S TRUE.
WE'D USUALLY HAVE JUST GOTTEN OFF WORK AND BE MAKING DINNER AT THIS HOUR.
Yawn.

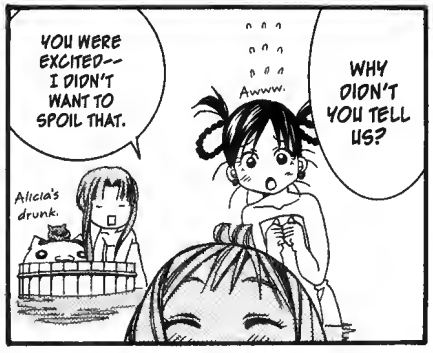


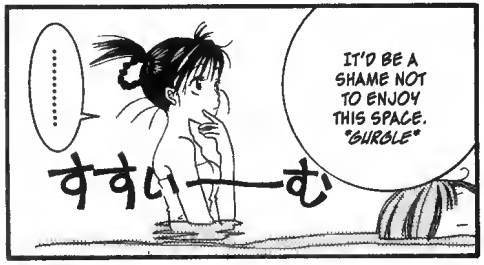


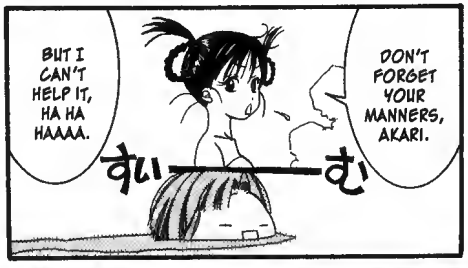
Sign: No Trespassing

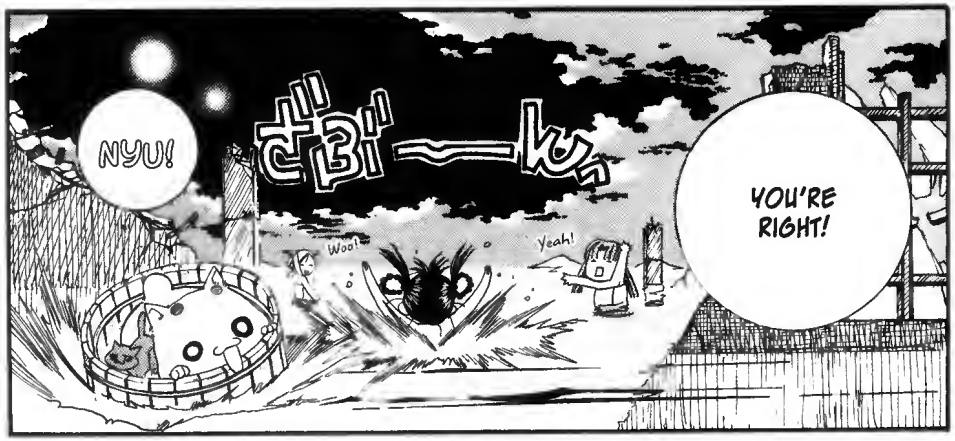
YEAH!
HOT SPRING BY THE OCEAN!
ざぱ〜〜んっ


OOPS!
Cat's out of the bag.
To this hot spring?
ALICIA, HAVE YOU EVER BEEN HERE BEFORE?

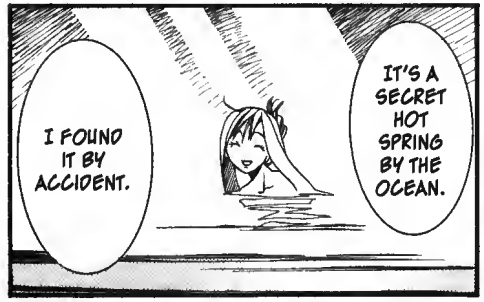

YOU WERE EXCITED-- I DIDN'T WANT TO SPOIL THAT.
Alicia's drunk.
Awww.
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL US?

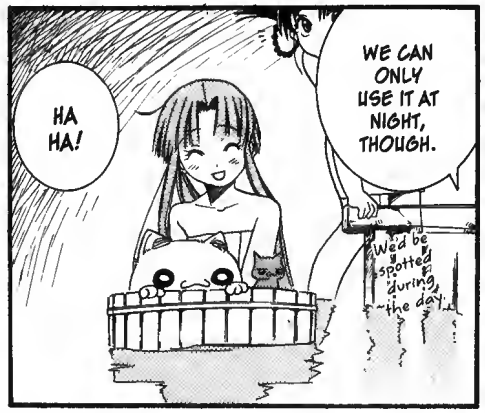

.....
IT'D BE A SHAME NOT TO ENJOY THIS SPACE. *SIGH*
すすい〜〜む

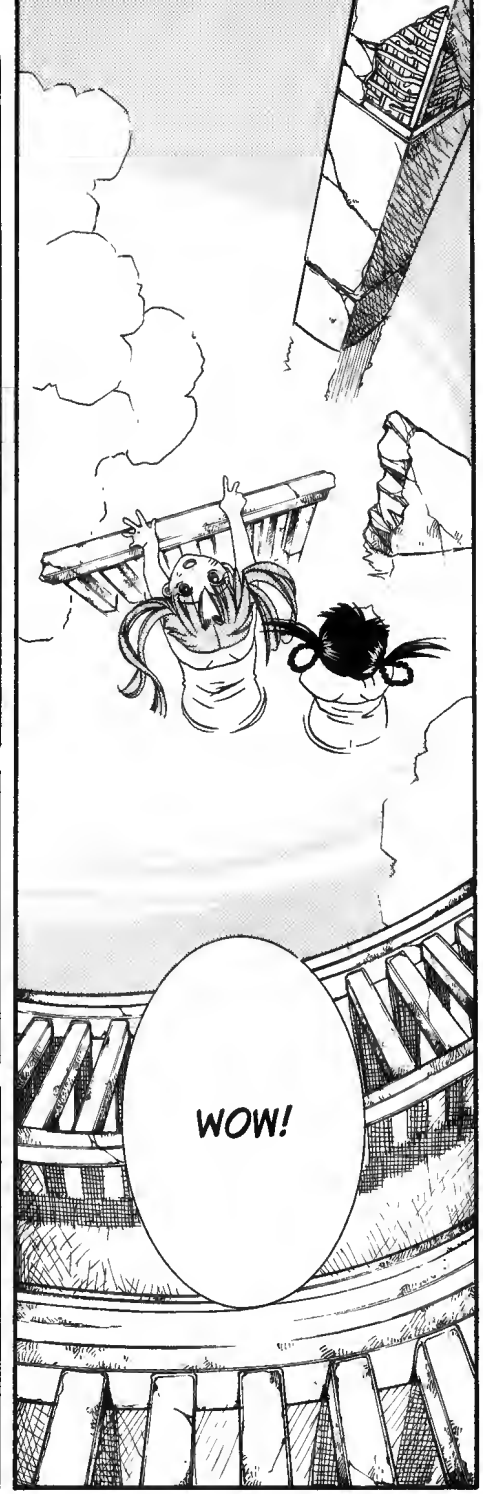

BUT I CAN'T HELP IT, HA HA HAAAA.
DON'T FORGET YOUR MANNERS, AKARI.
すい〜〜む

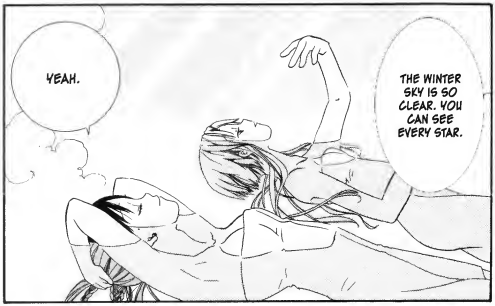

NYU!
ざぱ〜〜んっ
Woo!
Yeah!
YOU'RE RIGHT!

HA HA HA!
IT LEADS OUT TO THE OCEAN!

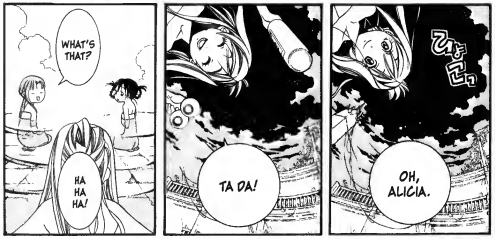

I FOUND IT BY ACCIDENT.
IT'S A SECRET HOT SPRING BY THE OCEAN.

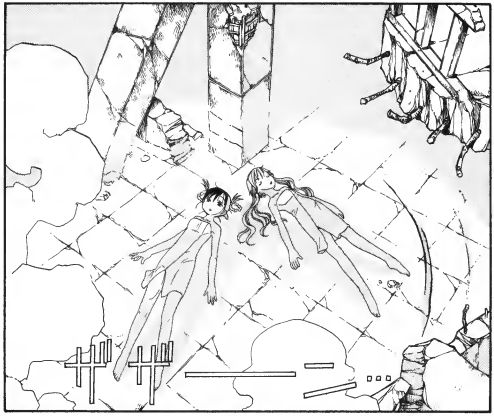

HA HA!
WE CAN ONLY USE IT AT NIGHT, THOUGH.
We'd be spotted during the day.


WOW!

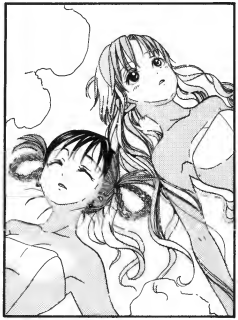

YEAH.
THE WINTER SKY IS SO CLEAR. YOU CAN SEE EVERY STAR.

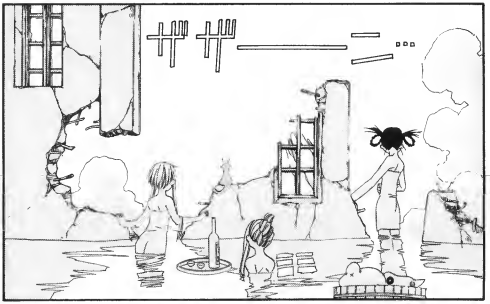
YEAH.
AH, I THINK I'M ABOUT TO FALL ASLEEP AGAIN.
I may drown.


WHAT'S THAT?
HA HA HA!
TA DA!
OH, ALICIA.



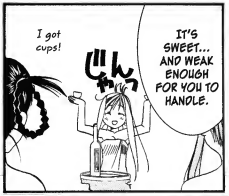
THE STARS ARE GORGEOUS.

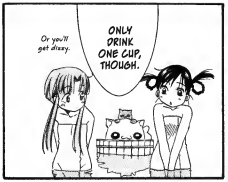




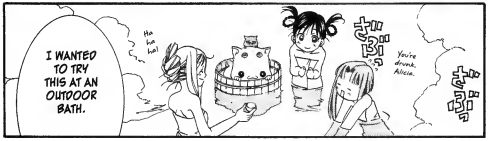
PERHAPS THIS IS WHAT THEY CALL A UTOPIA.

IT'S BEEN A VERY PEACEFUL DAY.

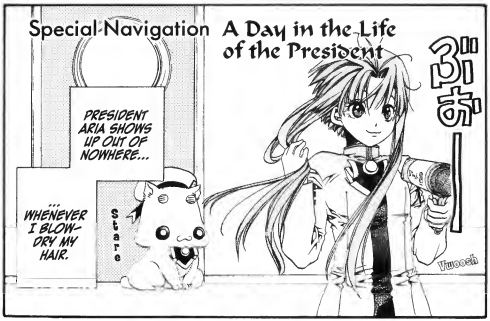

I got cups!
IT'S SWEET... AND WEAK ENOUGH FOR YOU TO HANDLE.

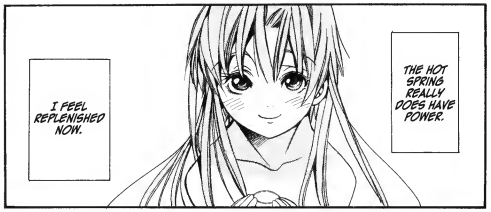

Or you'll get dizzy.
ONLY DRINK ONE CUP, THOUGH.

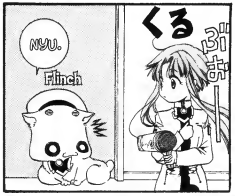
A YUMMY PEACH COCKTAIL!

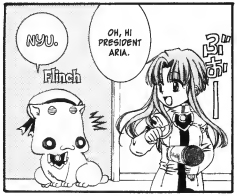

I WANTED TO TRY THIS AT AN OUTDOOR BATH.
Ha ha ha!
You're drunk, Alicia.

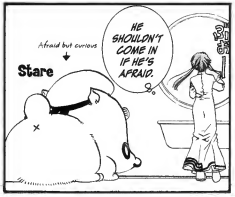
IT HAD A SUBTLE, BITTER-SWEET FLAVOR.
MMM, TASTY. THAT COCKTAIL WAS ICE COLD.

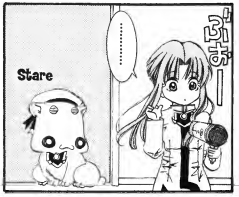

Special Navigation
A Day in the Life of the President
PRESIDENT ARIA SHOWS UP OUT OF NOWHERE...
...WHENEVER I BLOW-DRY MY HAIR.
Stare
ふぉー
Yuuoosh


I FEEL REPLENISHED NOW.
THE HOT SPRING REALLY DOES HAVE POWER.

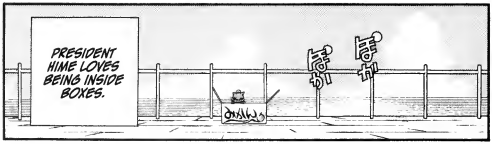

NYU.
Flinch
くる
ふぉー

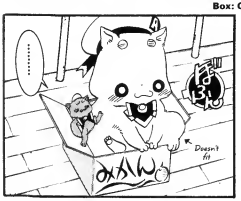

NYU.
OH, HI PRESIDENT ARIA.
Flinch
ふぉー

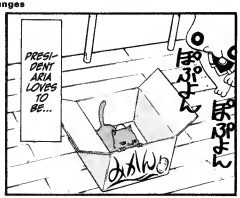

Afraid but curious
Stare
HE SHOULDN'T COME IN IF HE'S AFRAID.
ふぉー

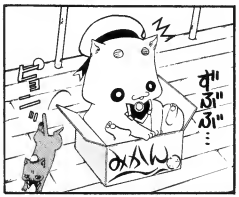

Stare
.....
ふぉー

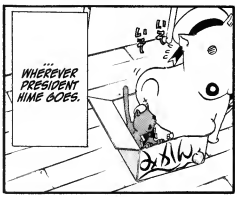
COME TOMORROW, I'LL START WORKING HARD AGAIN!

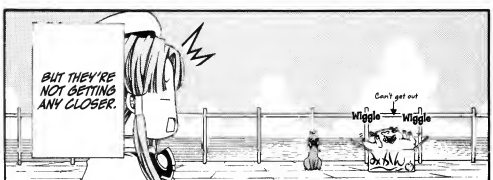

PRESIDENT HIME LOVES BEING INSIDE BOXES.
Box: Oranges

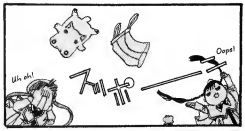

Box: Oranges
Doesn't fit

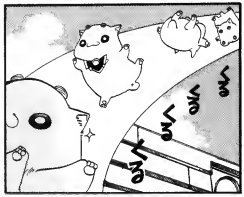

PRESIDENT ARIA LOVES TO BE...



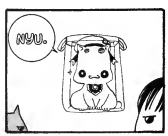

WHEREVER PRESIDENT HIME GOES.

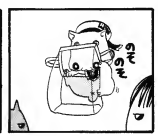

BUT THEY'RE NOT GETTING ANY CLOSER.
Can't get out
Wiggle
Wiggle

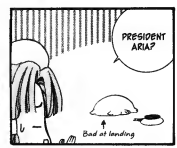

Uh oh!
Oops!


Oh no!

Ah ha ha ha ha ha!
SWOOSH
PRESIDENT ARIA LOVES GETTING INSIDE BAGS.
Phyuuuuuu!

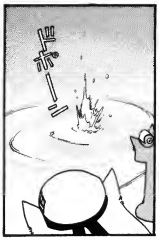

NYU.

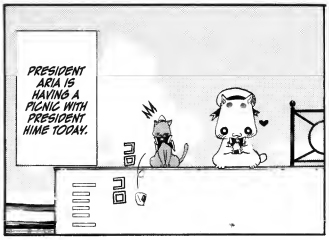


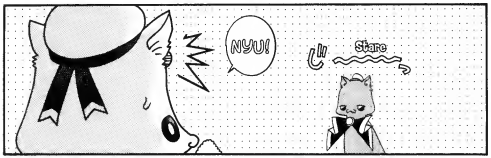

PRESIDENT ARIA?
Bad at landing

I GET NERVOUS WATCHING HIM.
Ah ha ha ha ha ha!
SWOOSH

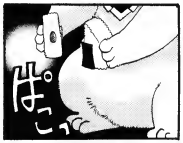
むく

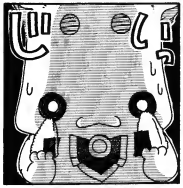

ピチョーン

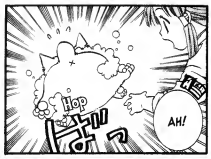

PRESIDENT ARIA IS HAVING A PICNIC WITH PRESIDENT HIME TODAY.

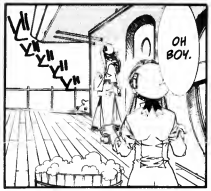

NYU!
Stare

NYU.
PRESIDENT ARIA IS A GENTLEMAN.
Still gives her a smaller piece

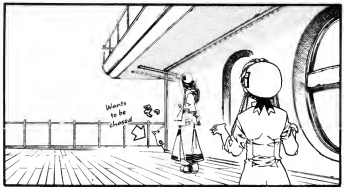

ぱこっ



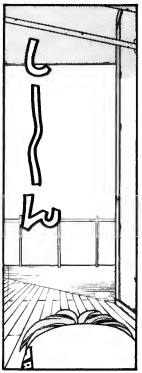

Hop
AH!


OH BOY.

PRESIDENT ARIA HATES TAKING A BATH.


Wants to be stopped

Psyuu!
Come on!!
TIME FOR ROUND TWO!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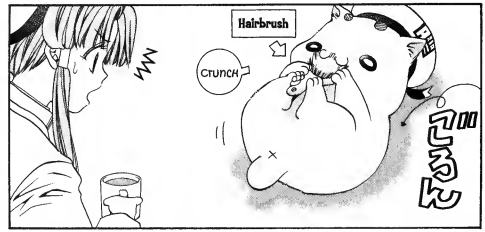
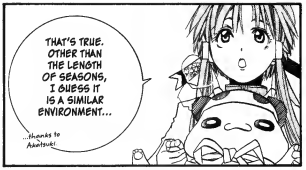
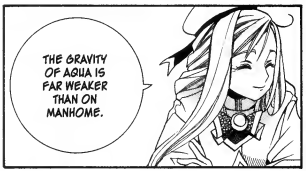
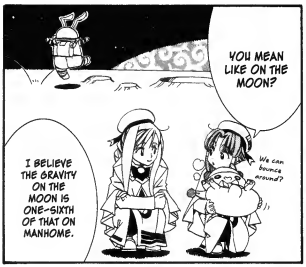
Navigation08 Voices of the Stars



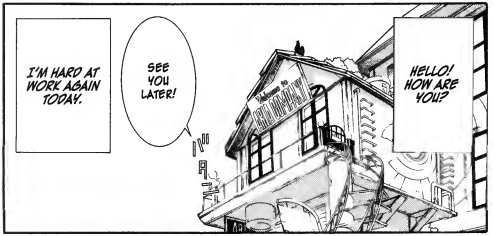

THAT'S TRUE. OTHER THAN THE LENGTH OF SEASONS, I GUESS IT IS A SIMILAR ENVIRONMENT...
...thanks to Aquatour!

HUH?
ARIA COMPANY
OH, THERE'S ACTUALLY ANOTHER BIG DIFFERENCE.

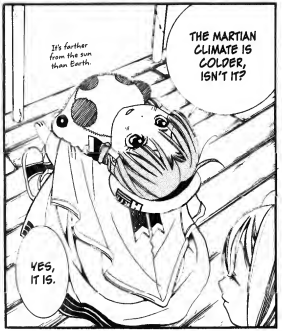

THE GRAVITY OF AQUA IS FAR WEAKER THAN ON MANHOME.


YOU MEAN LIKE ON THE MOON?
We can bounce around?
I BELIEVE THE GRAVITY ON THE MOON IS ONE-SIXTH OF THAT ON MANHOME.

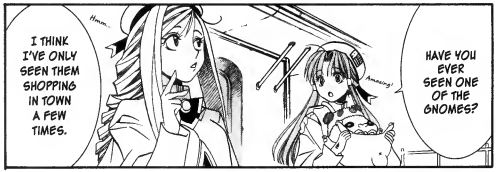
BUT WE HAVE A SIMILAR ATMOSPHERE TO MAN-HOME...
...BECAUSE THE SALAMANDERS ADJUST OUR WEATHER FROM THE FLOATING ISLANDS.
THE MARTIAN YEAR IS TWICE AS LONG AS AN EARTH YEAR, AND SO IS OUR WINTER.

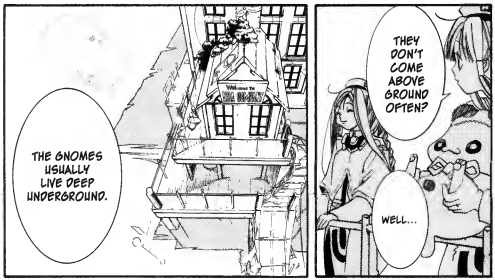

I'M HARD AT WORK AGAIN TODAY.
SEE YOU LATER!
HELLO! HOW ARE YOU?

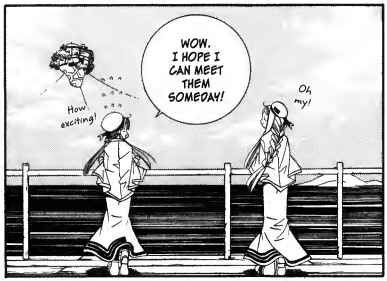
IT'S FREEZING COLD.
Oh my
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, AKARI?
Chatter Chatter Chatter

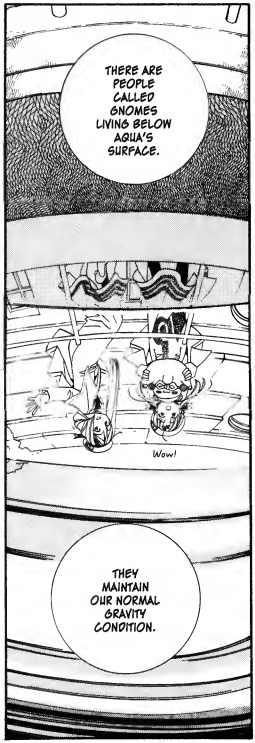

It's further from the sun than Earth.
THE MARTIAN CLIMATE IS COLDER, ISN'T IT?
YES, IT IS.

WELL, I'D LIKE TO SAY THAT...
...BUT I GET A LITTLE DOWN IN WINTER SINCE I DON'T LIKE THE COLD.
NYU?

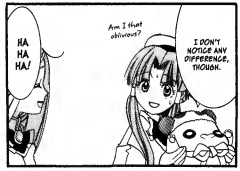

Hmm...
I THINK I'VE ONLY SEEN THEM SHOPPING IN TOWN A FEW TIMES.
Anemone?
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN ONE OF THE GNOMES?

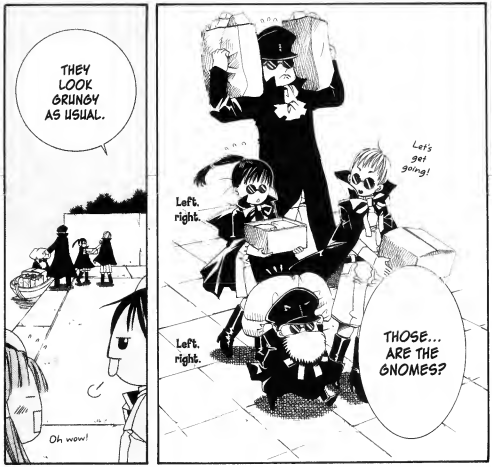

THE GNOMES USUALLY LIVE DEEP UNDERGROUND.
THEY DON'T COME ABOVE GROUND OFTEN?
WELL...

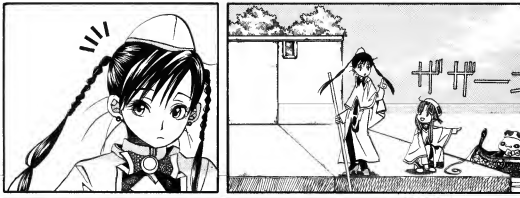

How exciting!
WOW. I HOPE I CAN MEET THEM SOMEDAY!
Oh, my!


THERE ARE PEOPLE CALLED GNOMES LIVING BELOW AQUA'S SURFACE.
Wow!
THEY MAINTAIN OUR NORMAL GRAVITY CONDITION.

THE GRAVITY ON AQUA IS ACTUALLY ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF MANHOME'S.


HA HA HA!
Am I that oblivious?
I DON'T NOTICE ANY DIFFERENCE, THOUGH.


THEY LOOK GRUNGY AS USUAL.
Oh wow!
Left, right.
Left, right.
Let's get going!
THOSE... ARE THE GNOMES?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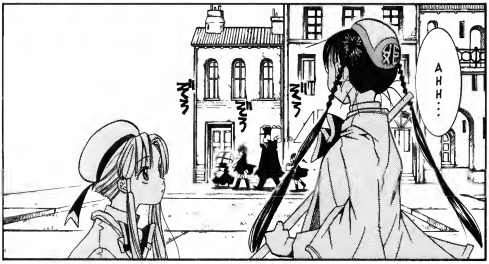
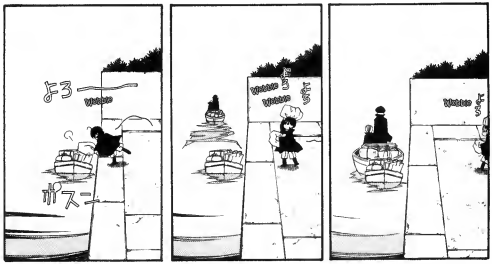

AHH...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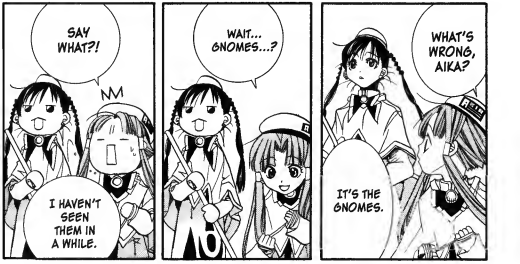
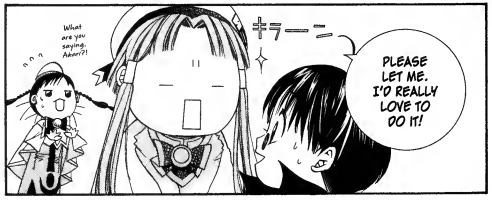
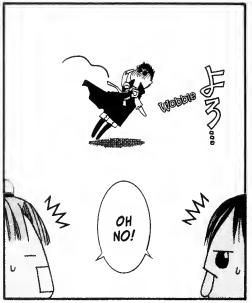
WHOOO
ガス
WHOOO
WHOOO
よろ
WHOOO


SAY WHAT?!
I HAVEN'T SEEN THEM IN A WHILE.
WAIT... GNOMES...?
WHAT'S WRONG, AIKA?
IT'S THE GNOMES.

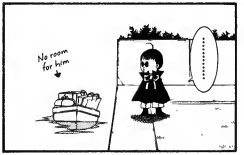
I'm afraid I bought too many supplies.
HOW EMBARRASSING.
THIS BOAT WILL SINK IF I GET IN.

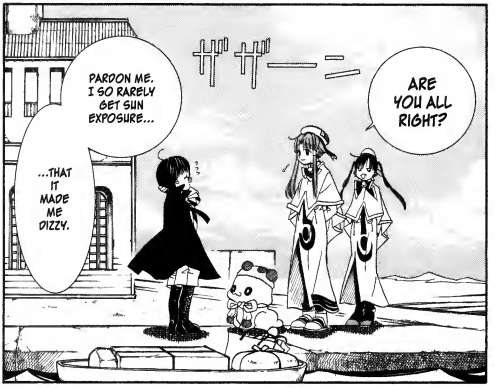
I'LL TAKE YOU HOME ON MY GONDOLA.
Eh?
HUH?
DON'T.
I'LL JUST RETURN SOME THINGS.


What are you saying, Akari?!
PLEASE LET ME. I'D REALLY LOVE TO DO IT!


Wobble
OH NO!

Pikari


No room for him


ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
PARDON ME. I SO RARELY GET SUN EXPOSURE...
...THAT IT MADE ME DIZZY.

Shock
OH NO!
I'M TELLING ALICIA!
HERE YOU GO SKIPPING PRACTICE AGAIN...

ISN'T THIS EXCITING, AIKA?

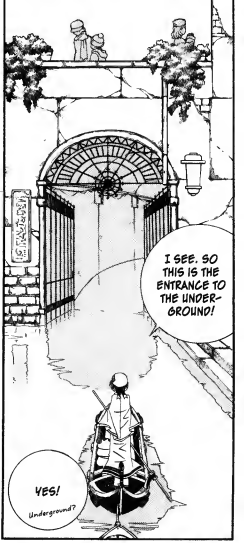
NOPE.
AREN'T YOU CURIOUS ABOUT THE UNDERGROUND WORLD?

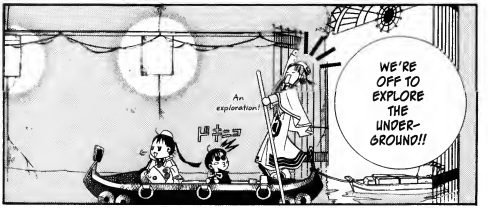
Besides, this is my fault.
YOU LADIES SHOULDN'T FIGHT.
LET'S MAKE PEACE.

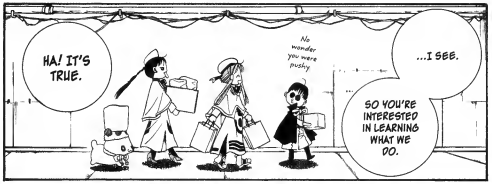
NOT INTERESTED!
NOW, NOW...

I'M SORRY TO BOTHER YOU.
IT'S NO PROBLEM!

ARE YOU REALLY GOING IN THERE, AKARI?
Why am I here?
YES, ABSOLUTELY!


I SEE. SO THIS IS THE ENTRANCE TO THE UNDERGROUND!
YES! Underground?

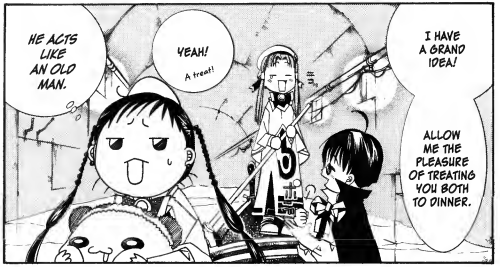

An exploration!
WE'RE OFF TO EXPLORE THE UNDERGROUND!!

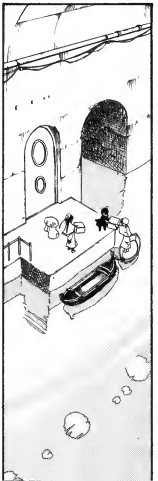

HA! IT'S TRUE.
No wonder you were pushy
...I SEE.
SO YOU'RE INTERESTED IN LEARNING WHAT WE DO.

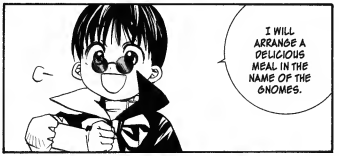
HERE WE GO...

I'LL SHOW YOU MY WORK-PLACE THEN.
YAY!

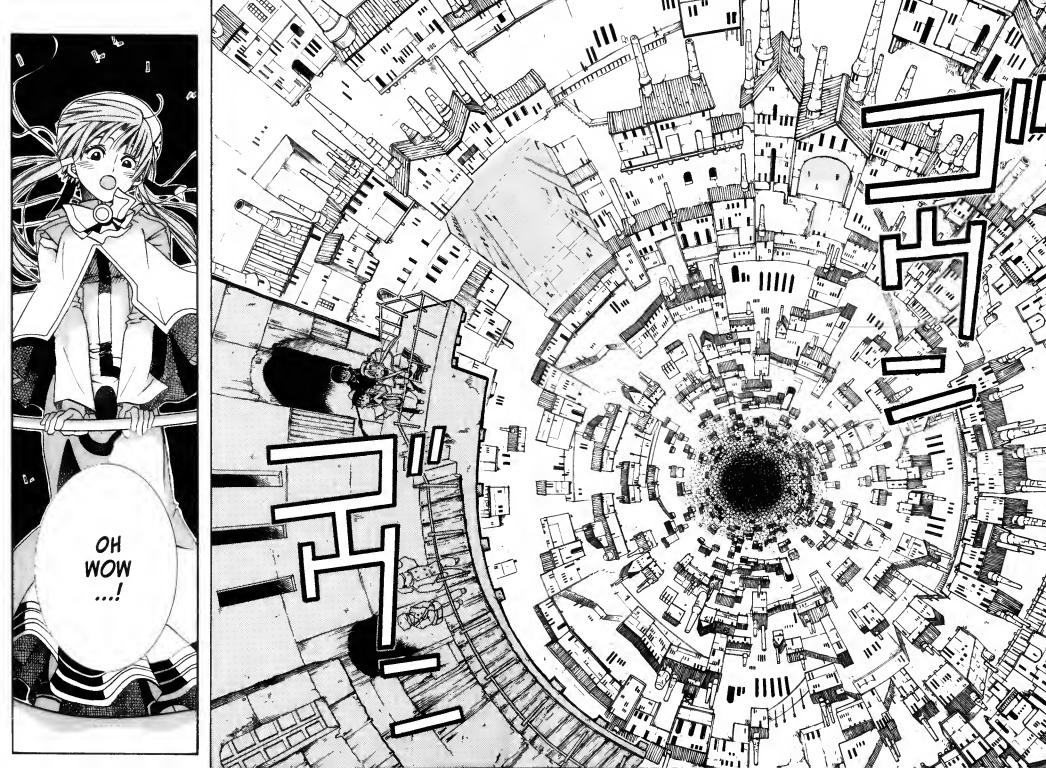
Vroooch
!

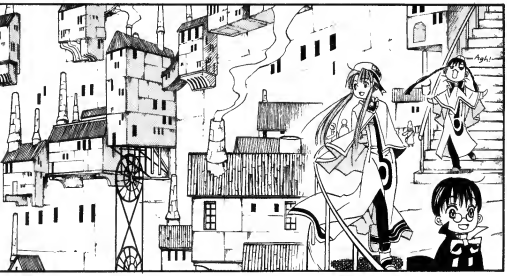

HE ACTS LIKE AN OLD MAN.
YEAH!
A treat!
I HAVE A GRAND IDEA!
ALLOW ME THE PLEASURE OF TREATING YOU BOTH TO DINNER.

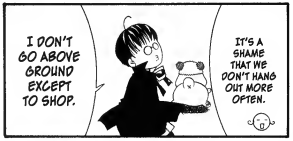



I WILL ARRANGE A DELICIOUS MEAL IN THE NAME OF THE GNOMES.

NICE TO MEET YOU.
I'M AKARI, THE UNDINE.
Aqua Gnome and Water Undine are Akari-chan and Pramiel-chan, Aren't they?
NYU.
LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF. I AM AL, THE GNOME.


OH WOW ...!

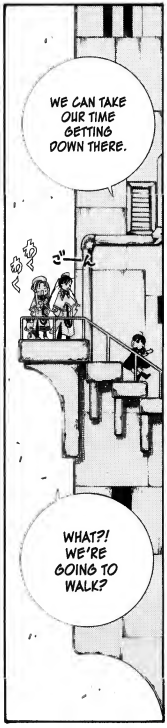

Agu...


I DON'T GO ABOVE GROUND EXCEPT TO SHOP.
IT'S A SHAME THAT WE DON'T HANG OUT MORE OFTEN.

Talking like an old man again...
UNFORTUNATELY, MY DEAR, THAT'S JUST THE WAY IT USUALLY IS.
Close but distant relations, I guess

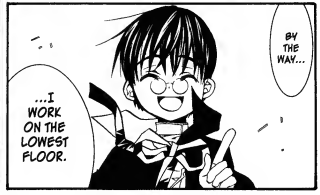
RIGHT.
YET WE LIVE SO CLOSE TO EACH OTHER.

WHO WOULD'VE EXPECTED SUCH A BEAUTIFUL PLACE UNDERGROUND?
It's so mysterious.
THIS IS SO NICE, AL! ♡

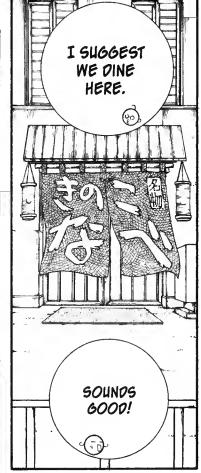

WE CAN TAKE OUR TIME GETTING DOWN THERE.
3"
WHAT?! WE'RE GOING TO WALK?

It looks bottomless.
THIS IS AMAZING!
WHAT A HUGE, AMAZING SPACE!

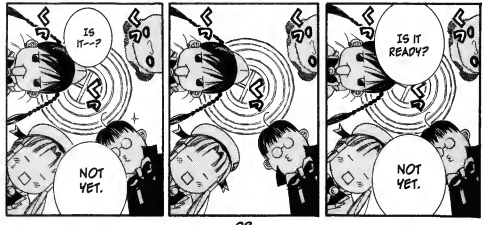
ヒュオオオ

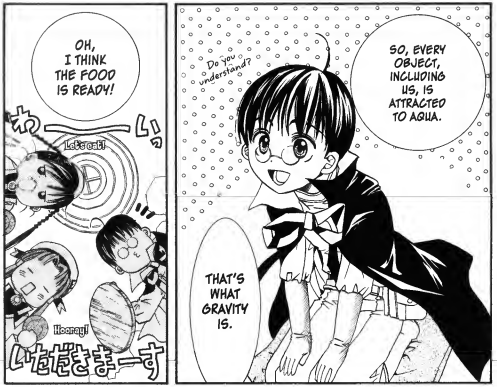

BY THE WAY...
...I WORK ON THE LOWEST FLOOR.

わくわく
HOW DO YOU DO IT?
YES.
HEY, AL...
...THE GNOMES MAINTAIN THE GRAVITY ON AGUA, RIGHT?
YOU UNDER-STAND WHAT GRAVITY IS, RIGHT?
Hm?
OKAY...
I'll start from the top.
SIMPLY PUT, IT'S THE POWER OF ATTRACTION, THE FORCE OBJECTS EXERT ON EACH OTHER.
GRAVITY IS THE THEORY THAT ALL PARTICLES ATTRACT ALL OTHER PARTICLES WITH A FORCE RELATIVE TO THEIR MASS.



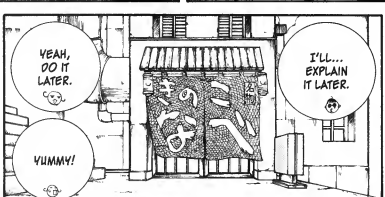
Curtain: Specialty Mushroom Pot



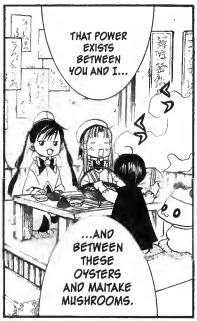

OH, I THINK THE FOOD IS READY!
わーい
Let's eat!
Hooray!
いただきまーす
SO, EVERY OBJECT, INCLUDING US, IS ATTRACTED TO AQUA.
Do you understand?
THAT'S WHAT GRAVITY IS.

はぶ
はぶ
もぐもぐ
もぐもぐ
.....

はぶ
はぶ
Huff
Huff
もぐもぐ
Munch
もぐもぐ
Munch
WHAT WE GNOMES DO EXACTLY IS...


こべべ
YEAH, DO IT LATER.
I'LL... EXPLAIN IT LATER.
YUMMY!

THE LARGER A MASS IS, THE STRONGER ITS GRAVITATIONAL PULL.
パタム

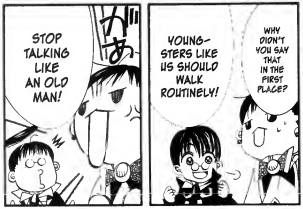

THAT POWER EXISTS BETWEEN YOU AND I...
...AND BETWEEN THESE OYSTERS AND MAITAKE MUSHROOMS.

NOW, THE OBJECT WITH THE GREATEST MASS FOR US...
Umph.

...IS OUR LOVELY PLANET, AQUA.

Yes, Aqua.
Aqua?

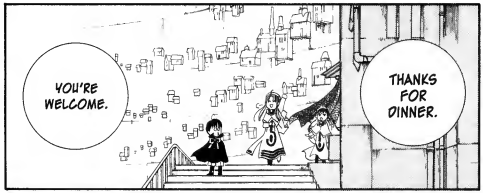
Umph.
ぢ

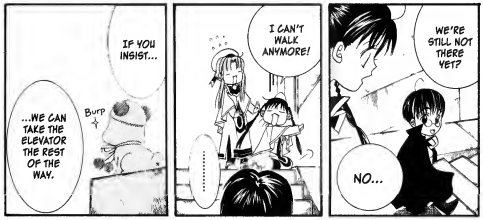

STOP TALKING LIKE AN OLD MAN!
YOUNGSTERS LIKE US SHOULD WALK ROUTINELY!
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT IN THE FIRST PLACE?

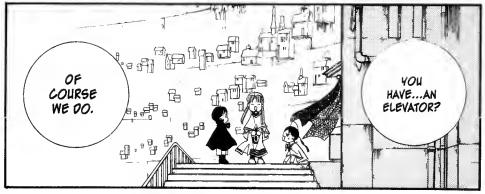
ゴゴゴ…
ゴゴゴ…
ゴゴゴ…

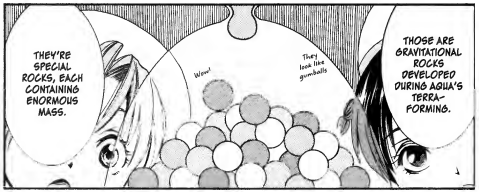
Screeech

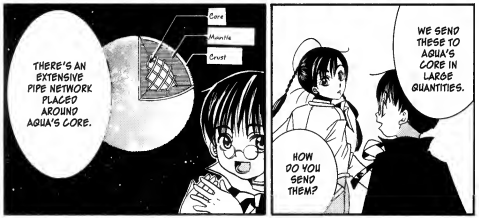
OH, HERE WE ARE.

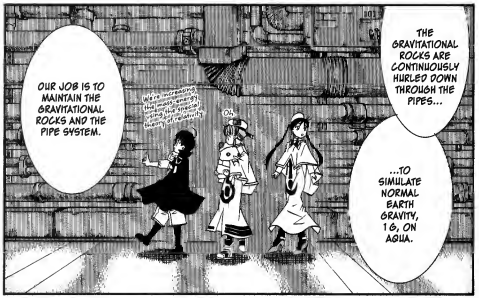

YOU'RE WELCOME.
THANKS FOR DINNER.


IF YOU INSIST...
...WE CAN TAKE THE ELEVATOR THE REST OF THE WAY.
BURP
I CAN'T WALK ANYMORE!
WE'RE STILL NOT THERE YET?
NO...


OF COURSE WE DO.
YOU HAVE...AN ELEVATOR?


THOSE ARE GRAVITATIONAL ROCKS DEVELOPED DURING AQUA'S TERRA-FORMING.
Wow!
They look like gumballs
THEY'RE SPECIAL ROCKS, EACH CONTAINING ENORMOUS MASS.

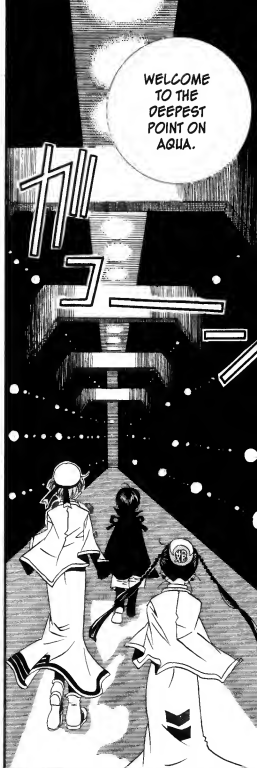

WE SEND THESE TO AQUA'S CORE IN LARGE QUANTITIES.
HOW DO YOU SEND THEM?
Core
Mantle
Crust
THERE'S AN EXTENSIVE PIPE NETWORK PLACED AROUND AQUA'S CORE.

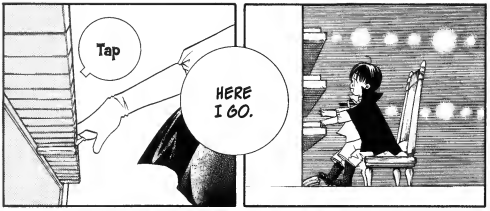

THE GRAVITATIONAL ROCKS ARE CONTINUOUSLY HURLED DOWN THROUGH THE PIPES...
...TO SIMULATE NORMAL EARTH GRAVITY, 1 G, ON AQUA.
OUR JOB IS TO MAINTAIN THE GRAVITATIONAL ROCKS AND THE PIPE SYSTEM.
Ok!
Ok!

THIS IS WHERE WE WORK.
Pssst everywhere.
It's so dark.

ホゥ!!!
Wish...

WHAT'RE THESE?
ガシャコ!!
ガシャコ!!

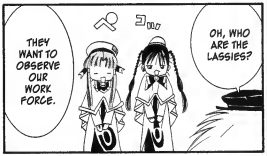

WELCOME TO THE DEEPEST POINT ON AQUA.
ガコーン

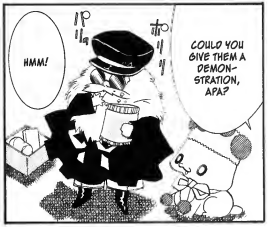

Tap
HERE I GO.

コニ
Clonk
キニ
Clink

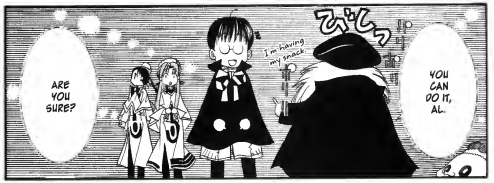
カー
ギー

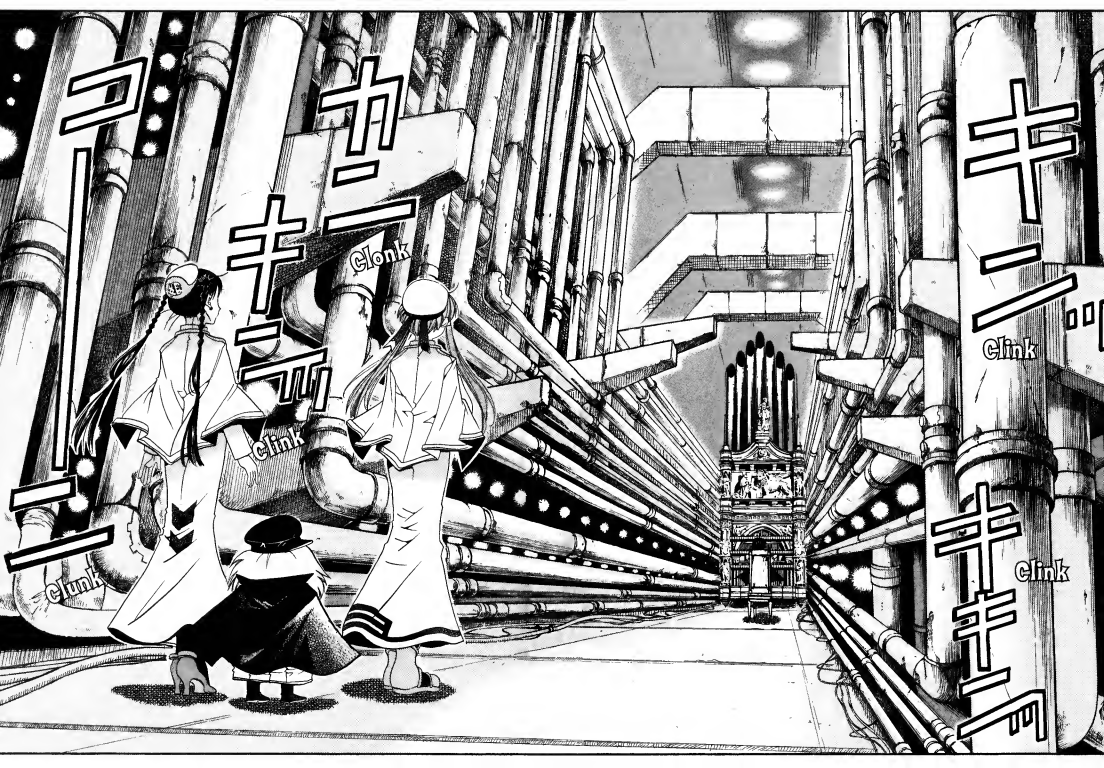
THANKS.
HERE ARE THE SNACKS YOU REQUESTED.

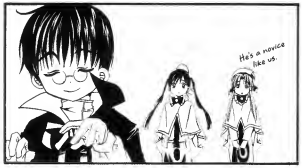

ペコ
THEY WANT TO OBSERVE OUR WORK FORCE.
OH, WHO ARE THE LASSIES?

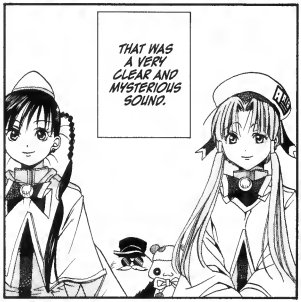

ピリ
ホイ
HMM!
COULD YOU GIVE THEM A DEMON-STRATION, APA?

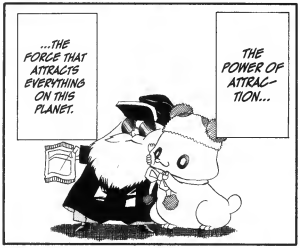
APA!
HM?

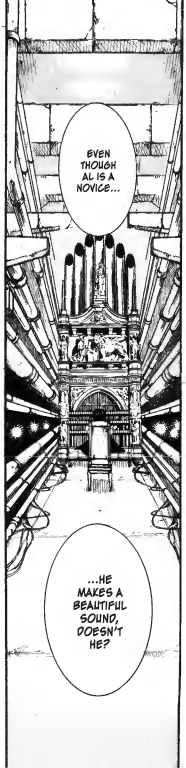

ARE YOU SURE?
I'm saving my snack
ぴしっ
YOU CAN DO IT, AL.

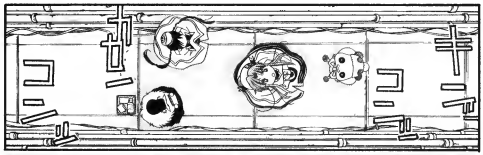

キーー
Clonk
Clink
Clink
Clink
Clink
キキー

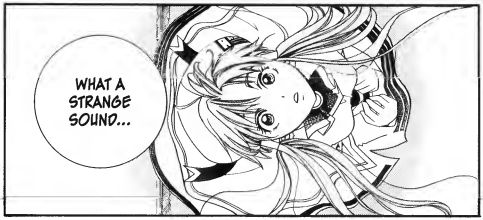

He's a novice like us


THAT WAS A VERY CLEAR AND MYSTERIOUS SOUND.


...THE FORCE THAT ATTRACTS EVERYTHING ON THIS PLANET.
THE POWER OF ATTRAC-TION...

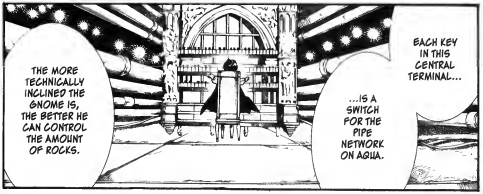

EVEN THOUGH AL IS A NOVICE...
...HE MAKES A BEAUTIFUL SOUND, DOESN'T HE?




WHAT A STRANGE SOUND...

YES, THEY ARE!
THEY'RE CONTROLLED BY THAT PIPE-ORGAN-TYPE DEVICE?

THOSE ARE THE GRAVITATIONAL ROCKS GOING DOWN THE PIPES.


THE MORE TECHNICALLY INCLINED THE GNOME IS, THE BETTER HE CAN CONTROL THE AMOUNT OF ROCKS.
...IS A SWITCH FOR THE PIPE NETWORK ON AGUA.
EACH KEY IN THIS CENTRAL TERMINAL...

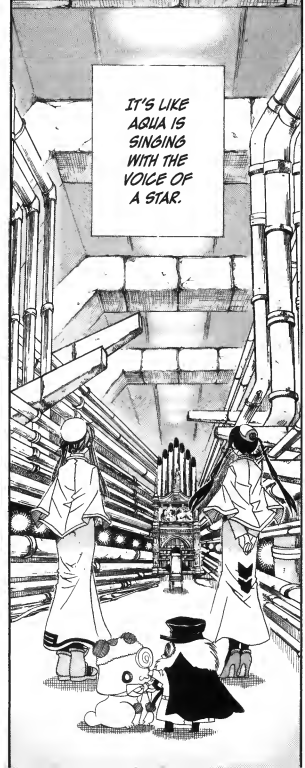
I HAVE TO ASK, THOUGH--WHY DO YOU TALK LIKE AN OLD MAN?
I WASN'T UP FOR IT...
...BUT IT WASN'T A BAD LITTLE TRIP.
Thanks for the dinner, too
I'm not an old man.
Aca!

THANKS FOR EVERY-THING.
YOU'RE MOST WELCOME.
Aca!

.....
AIKA, YOU SHOULD THANK HIM, TOO.

...YOUR STORY ABOUT...
...THE POWER OF ATTRACTION WAS INTERESTING.

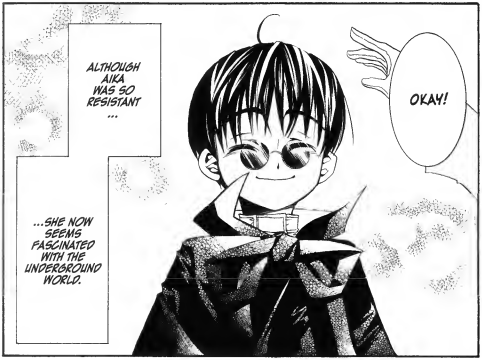
STILL...

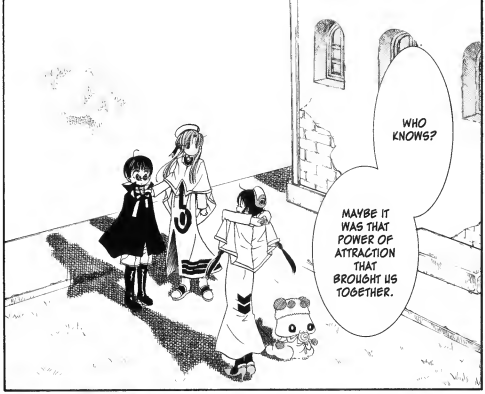

IT'S LIKE AQUA IS SINGING WITH THE VOICE OF A STAR.

IT'D BE A CHANCE TO COME OUT FROM THE UNDER-GROUND.

...NEXT TIME, LET US SHOW YOU AROUND ABOVE GROUND IN RETURN!

YOU SHOULD VISIT OFTEN!


ALTHOUGH AIKA WAS SO RESISTANT ...
...SHE NOW SEEMS FASCINATED WITH THE UNDERGROUND WORLD.
OKAY!


WHO KNOWS?
MAYBE IT WAS THAT POWER OF ATTRACTION THAT BROUGHT US TOGETHER.

WELL...
...ANYWAY...

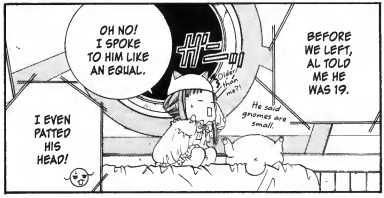
Gasp!

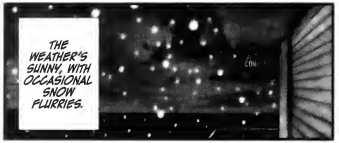
OH NO!
NO EMBARRASSING COMMENTS ALLOWED, AIKA!
Gah!
May
WAH!

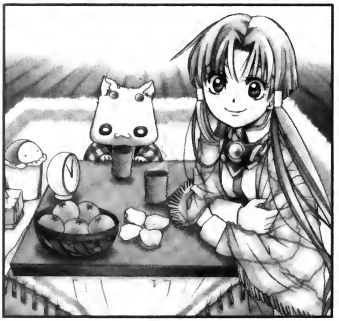
OH NO! YOU DIDN'T HEAR THAT!
What a ridiculous thing to say.

He's 19. three years older than me...

AND SO AM I...
AQUA IS STILL FULL OF MYSTERIOUS THINGS.


OH NO! I SPOKE TO HIM LIKE AN EQUAL.
I EVEN PATTED HIS HEAD!
Huh? Is that true?
He said gnomes are small.
BEFORE WE LEFT, AL TOLD ME HE WAS 19.

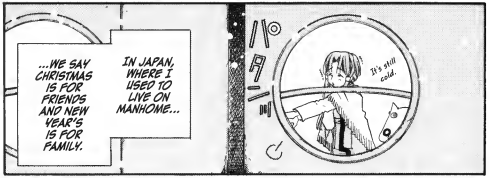


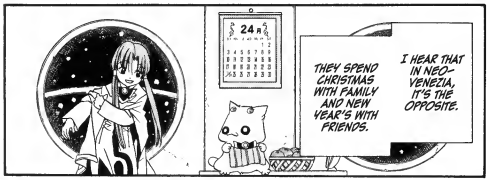


Calendar: Month 24

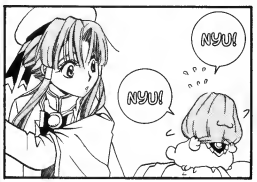
*Toshikoshi noodles are long soba noodles eaten on New Year's Eve.

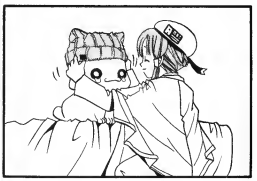
Navigation09
Auguri di
Buon Anno


...WE SAY CHRISTMAS IS FOR FRIENDS AND NEW YEAR'S IS FOR FAMILY.
IN JAPAN, WHERE I USED TO LIVE ON MANHOME...
It's still cold.


24日
THEY SPEND CHRISTMAS WITH FAMILY AND NEW YEAR'S WITH FRIENDS.
I HEAR THAT IN NEO-VENEZIA, IT'S THE OPPOSITE.

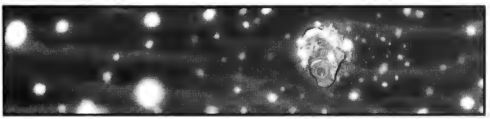
SO I'M SPENDING THIS NEW YEAR'S EVE WITH FRIENDS.

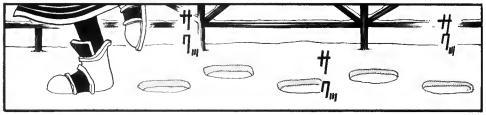

NYU!
NYU!

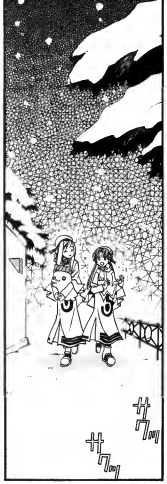


...HAS SEEMED LONG, BUT SHORT.
EVERY SEASON I'VE SPENT ON AQUA...

THEY'VE BEEN MY HAPPIEST DAYS.





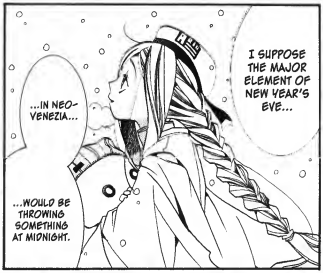


**Bells at temples ring at midnight to signal the new year.

*A kotatsu is a small table covered with a quilt with an electric heater attached underneath.

WOW, THAT SOUNDS WILD!
Like Chinese New Year?

...SOMETHING?
THROWING...
Huh?
YES.


I SUPPOSE THE MAJOR ELEMENT OF NEW YEAR'S EVE...
...IN NEO-VENEZIA...
...WOULD BE THROWING SOMETHING AT MIDNIGHT.

PEOPLE ALL OVER TOWN THROW THINGS LIKE PLATES AND TV SETS OUT OF THEIR WINDOWS.
WHAT?!

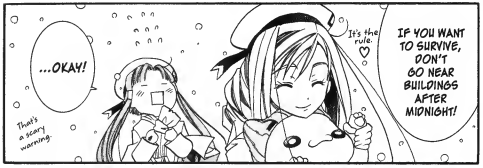
AFTERWARD, WE PARTY ALL NIGHT...
THE MAIN EVENT IS THE COUNTDOWN TO THE NEW YEAR.
...UNTIL WE SEE THE FIRST SUNRISE OF THE NEW YEAR.

FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE HERE...
...PEOPLE CONGREGATE AT SAN MARCO SQUARE TO CELEBRATE.

They're practically zombies by then.
HA HA!
THERE ARE NO RULES, SO EVERYONE GOES CRAZY!

THERE'S AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT, SO BE CAREFUL.
LOTS OF LOUD FIREWORKS AND FIRECRACKERS ARE SET OFF AT MIDNIGHT.
THOSE ARE FIRE-CRACKERS.

THEY'RE GETTING STARTED.


IF YOU WANT TO SURVIVE, DON'T GO NEAR BUILDINGS AFTER MIDNIGHT!
It's the rule!
...OKAY!
That's a scary warning.

DO I HAVE TO THROW SOMETHING OUT FOR NEW YEAR'S, AS WELL?
YUP.
Of course!
BUT I DIDN'T BRING ANYTHING WITH ME.

HA HA HA! IT CAN BE ANYTHING OLD FROM LAST YEAR...
...LIKE THIS.

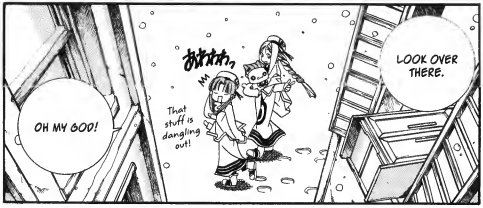
THAT'S WHY YOU HAD ME COME IN MY UNIFORM!
RIGHT!

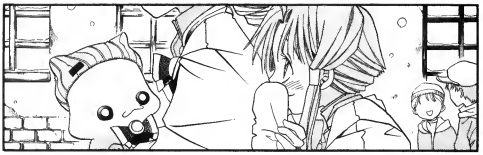
Yes.
IT'S SORT OF THE EQUIVALENT...
...OF A MONETARY OFFERING AT A SHRINE IN JAPAN!
OH MY... I GUESS...?

LONG AGO, IN ITALY, ON MANHOME, IT WAS TRADITION FOR PEOPLE TO THROW OUT OLD THINGS...
...IN ORDER TO FORGET THE BAD MOMENTS FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR.
WOW!

WH-WHY SUCH A CRAZY CUSTOM?
HA HA HA!

YES, WE'VE INCORPORATED IT INTO THIS TOWN'S CUSTOM.
DON'T TELL ME WE FOLLOW THAT TRADITION HERE...

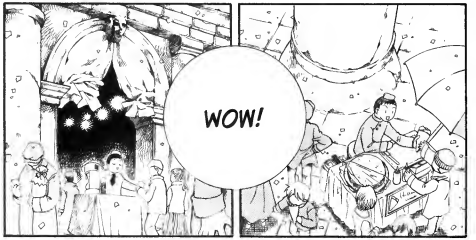

OH MY GOD!
That stuff is dangling out!
LOOK OVER THERE.

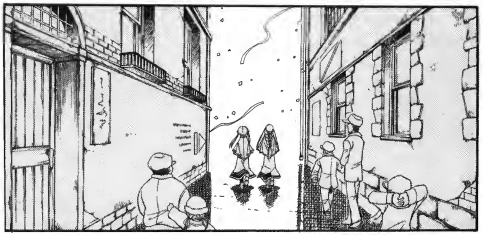


OH DEAR.
...about New Year's Eve!
I'M SO EXCITED...

OH NO, ALICIA.
?

WE'RE ALMOST AT THE SQUARE.


WOW!



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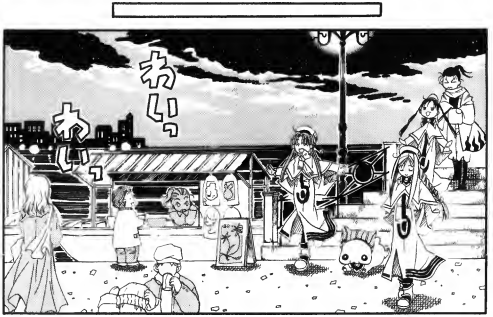
YO, SIDEBURNS.
Nice sideburns, as always.
Jeez.
DON'T CALL ME SIDEBURNS!

ARE YOU HERE ALONE?
NO, I'M HERE WITH MY BIG BROTHER.
But we got separated.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE, ALICIA.
OH, HELLO.
HEY!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わいっ

OH MY.
Yeah!
NEO-VENEZIA IS AWESOME, ISN'T IT?

AH!

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE HERE.
I'M HERE WITH THE HIMEYA STAFF.

IS THAT YOU, AIKA?

OH…
スタスタスタ

*Oshiruko is a Japenese dessert of red-bean soup with pounded rice cake.

I GUESS IT'S CONSIDERED A BEAN DISH BECAUSE OF THE RED BEANS.

OH, THERE'S AN OSHIRUKO* SHOP, AIKA!

すいろ

Sign: Oshiruko

YES, "AUGURI DI BUON ANNO."

IT MEANS, "BEST WISHES FOR A GOOD YEAR."

HEY...

THAT REMINDS ME!

WHAT DO PEOPLE HERE SAY ON NEW YEAR'S?

BUON ANNO?

Auguri?

HA HA HA! THEY SAY, "AUGURI" OR, "BUON ANNO."

OHHH...IS A LIFE LIKE THIS REALLY WORTH LIVING?

Nice accent, bonehead

Yeah!

My word.

NYU!

AUGURI!

AUGURI!

BUON ANNO!

BUON ANNO!

WHY DO YOU SAY, "OF COURSE"?

YOU DON'T KNOW? BONEHEAD!

BEANS, HUH?

WHAT ARE YOU EATING, AKATSUKI?

LENTILS, OF COURSE.

OH, BEANS EVERY-WHERE.

LOOK, AKARI.

?

wave wave

WE FOLLOW THAT TRADITION HERE, TOO.

Ahh. I see..

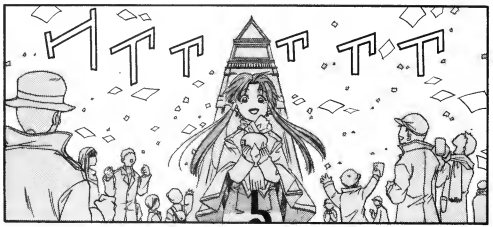
LIKE THE TOSHIKOSHI NOODLES IN JAPAN?

BEANS REPRESENT MONEY... THEY'RE SAID TO BRING FORTUNE.

IN ITALY, BACK ON MANHOME...

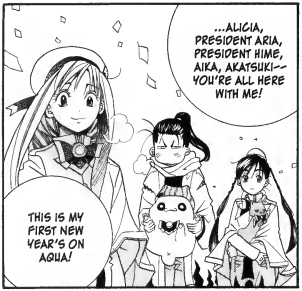
...PEOPLE TRADITIONALLY EAT BEANS ON THE LAST DAY OF THE YEAR.

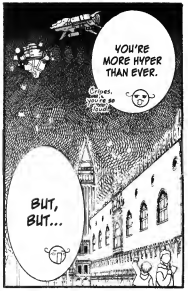
THIS YEAR IS ALMOST OVER.


TTTTTT

READY, AKARI?
THROW YOUR HAT WHEN THE CLOCK STRIKES MIDNIGHT.

IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR THE COUNTDOWN.


...ALICIA, PRESIDENT ARIA, PRESIDENT HIME, AIKA, AKATSUKI--- YOU'RE ALL HERE WITH ME!
THIS IS MY FIRST NEW YEAR'S ON AQUA!


YOU'RE MORE HYPER THAN EVER.
Gulp. YOU'RE SO STRONG.
BUT, BUT...

IT'S THE YEAR I GOT TO MEET ALL OF YOU!
IT'S BEEN A SPECIAL YEAR...

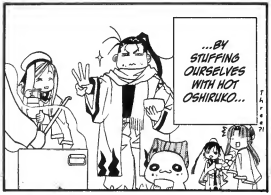
...IS COMING TO AN END!
NOW THAT YEAR...

THOSE GLORIOUS DAYS...
NINE! (NOVE)
EIGHT! (OTTO)
WHAT'S WRONG, AKARI?
SEVEN! (SETTE)
TEN! (DIECI)

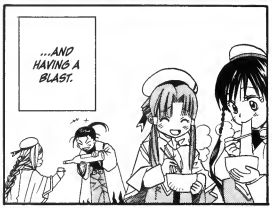
A LOT HAS HAPPENED THIS YEAR.
THAT PRECIOUS TIME...

YES.
THREE! (TRE)
AKARI, YOU'VE BEEN EXTREMELY FORTUNATE.
TWO! (DUE)
ONE!! (UNO)
NOW IT'S REALLY COMING TO AN END.
IT'S JUST THAT SO MANY THINGS HAVE HAPPENED THIS YEAR.
FIVE! (CINQUE)
I'M REALLY GOING TO MISS IT.
HA HA HA!
FOUR! (QUATTRO)
Tee hee!
DO YOU THINK I'VE BEEN FORTUNATE?

BUON ANNO!
AUGURI!


...BY STUFFING OURSELVES WITH HOT OSHIRUKO...

おしるこ
WE ALSO OVERDID IT...


...AND HAVING A BLAST.

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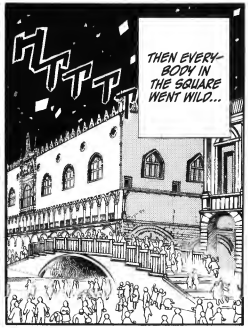
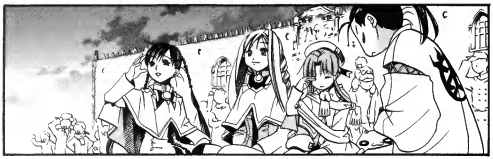
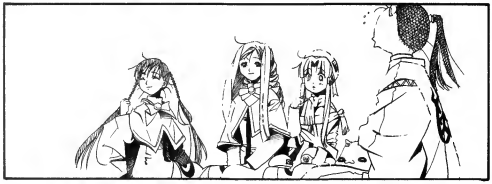
Dong
Ding
Dong
Ding

...ALL NIGHT UNTIL THEY SAW THE YEAR'S FIRST SUNRISE.

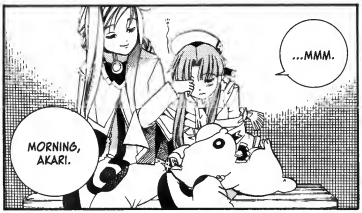

THEN EVERYBODY IN THE SQUARE WENT WILD...



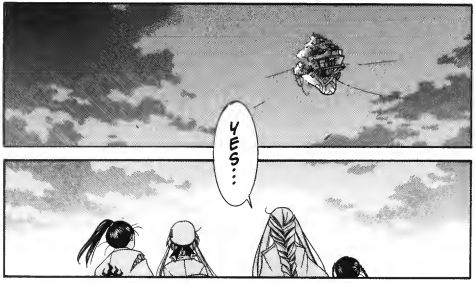


I FEEL THE SUN ALL OVER MY BODY.

THE YEAR'S FIRST SUNRISE...

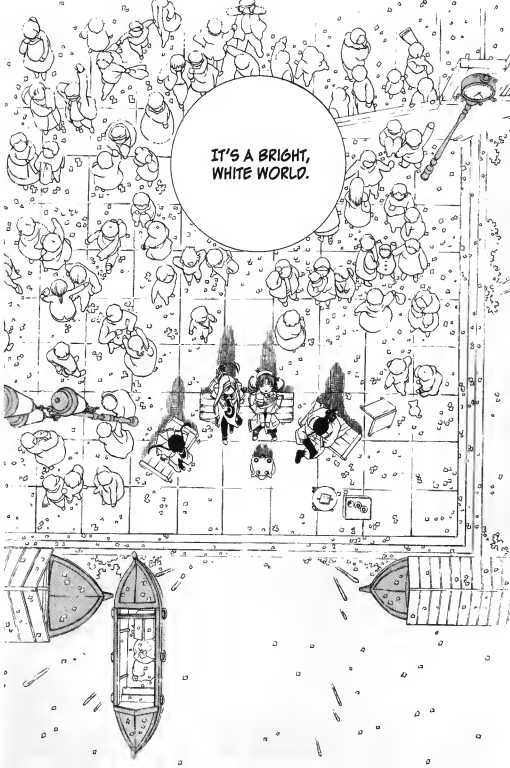

MORNING, AKARI.
...MMM.

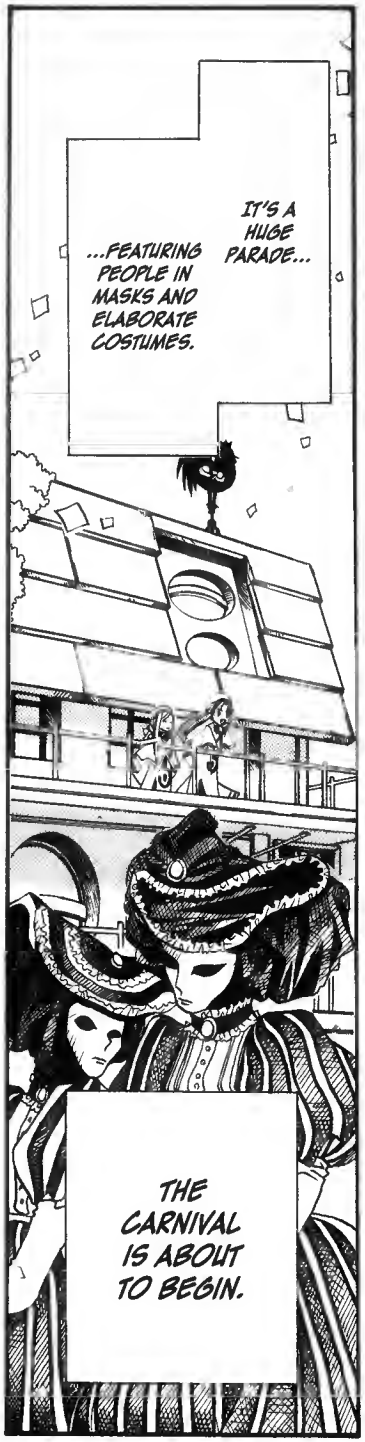
NYU!


YES...

...HOW YOU SPEND THIS NEW YEAR.
IT'S ALL UP TO YOU...

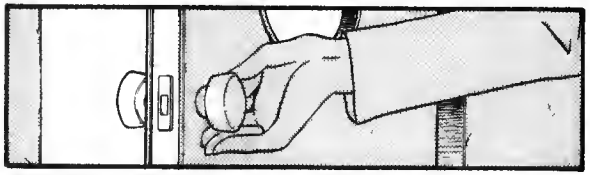
...IT'S THE START...
...OF A BRAND-NEW YEAR.


IT'S A BRIGHT, WHITE WORLD.


IT'S A HUGE PARADE...
...FEATURING PEOPLE IN MASKS AND ELABORATE COSTUMES.
THE CARNIVAL IS ABOUT TO BEGIN.

HEY... YOUR WAIT IS OVER!

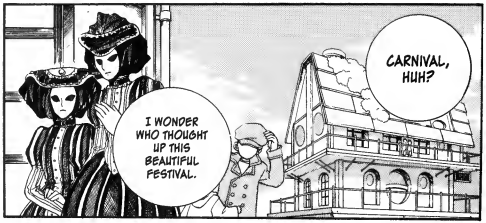
THE TIME FOR THE WORLD'S GREATEST FESTIVAL IS HERE.



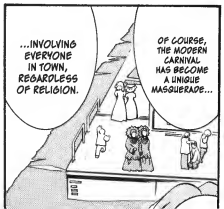
PEOPLE FROM ALL AROUND, INCLUDING BOTH MANHOME...
...AND AQUA, GATHER HERE TO ENJOY THE MASQUERADE.

WE ALWAYS HAVE TO DO OUR BEST!

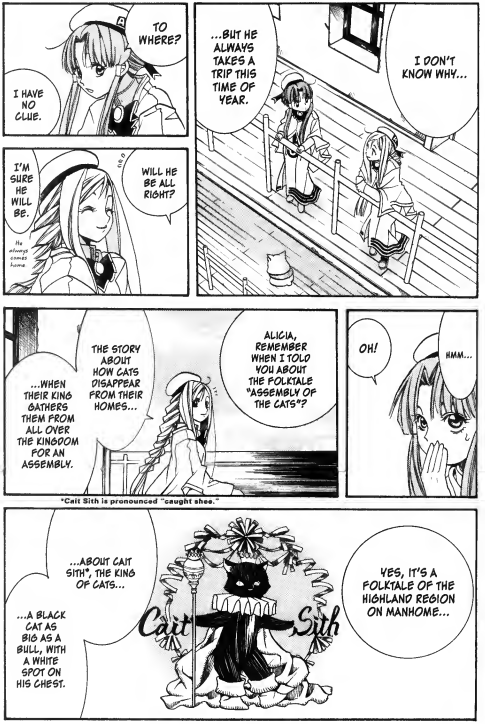
AND I ALWAYS WILL!

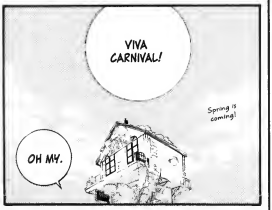


ITS ORIGINAL PURPOSE WAS TO CELEBRATE LENT.
Ha ha ha!
...WHICH COMES FROM THE LATIN PHRASE FOR "FAREWELL TO MEAT!"
CARNIVAL IN ITALIAN IS "CARNEVALE"...

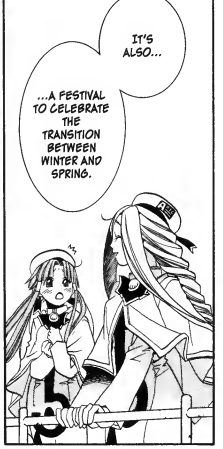


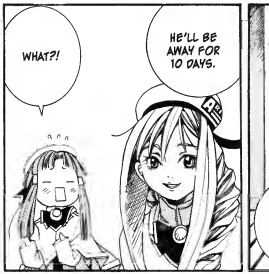
Navigation10 Carnival


TO WHERE?
I HAVE NO CLUE.
...BUT HE ALWAYS TAKES A TRIP THIS TIME OF YEAR.
I DON'T KNOW WHY...
I'M SURE HE WILL BE.
He always comes home.
WILL HE BE ALL RIGHT?
THE STORY ABOUT HOW CATS DISAPPEAR FROM THEIR HOMES...
...WHEN THEIR KING GATHERS THEM FROM ALL OVER THE KINGDOM FOR AN ASSEMBLY.
ALICIA, REMEMBER WHEN I TOLD YOU ABOUT THE FOLKTALE "ASSEMBLY OF THE CATS"?
OH!
HMM...
*Cait Sith is pronounced "caught shee."
...ABOUT CAIT SITH", THE KING OF CATS...
...A BLACK CAT AS BIG AS A BULL, WITH A WHITE SPOT ON HIS CHEST.
Cait Sith
YES, IT'S A FOLKTALE OF THE HIGHLAND REGION ON MANHOME...


VIVA CARNIVAL!
Spring is coming!
OH MY.

NYU!
I'LL SEE YOU LATER, PRESIDENT ARIA!


IT'S ALSO...
...A FESTIVAL TO CELEBRATE THE TRANSITION BETWEEN WINTER AND SPRING.


WHAT?!
HE'LL BE AWAY FOR 10 DAYS.

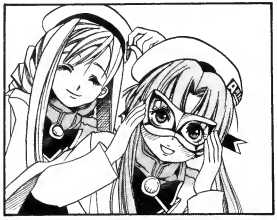
HEY, IS PRESIDENT ARIA GOING SOMEWHERE?
ほのぼの
ほのぼの
YES.

YEAH!

WELL...
...WHO KNOWS?
MY WORD.
ARE THEY HAVING THAT ASSEMBLY AGAIN?
I WANTED TO GO TO THE CARNIVAL WITH PRESIDENT ARIA, TOO.
WHAT A SHAME.

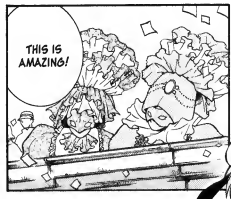
Which should I wear?
.....

THE BAUTA AND A BLACK CLOAK CALLED A TABARRO ARE TRADITIONALLY...
...WORN AT THE CARNIVAL. LET'S PICK THE BAUTA YOU LIKE FIRST!



ざわ
HERE HE IS!
HE'S THE REAL THING!

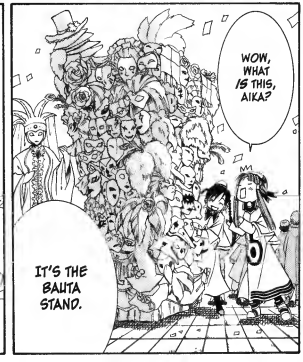
トァアア
ポコ ポコ
ズニダダン
キーン キャ
OH, HE'S BACK AGAIN.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHY IS EVERYONE IN A FRENZY?

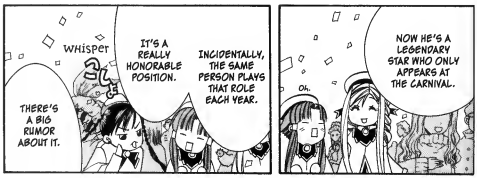

THIS IS AMAZING!

OH WOW!

HEY, AKARI!
ドキ ドキ

YEAH, THAT'S WHAT THESE MASKS ARE.
BAUTA?
OKA!


WOW, WHAT IS THIS, AIKA?
IT'S THE BAUTA STAND.


Whisper
THERE'S A BIG RUMOR ABOUT IT.
IT'S A REALLY HONORABLE POSITION.
INCIDENTALLY, THE SAME PERSON PLAYS THAT ROLE EACH YEAR.
Oh.
NOW HE'S A LEGENDARY STAR WHO ONLY APPEARS AT THE CARNIVAL.

I HEARD HE'S AN IMMORTAL FAIRY.
WHAT? NO WAY!
Over 100 years?

...HIS TRUE IDENTITY.
NO ONE HAS BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM...

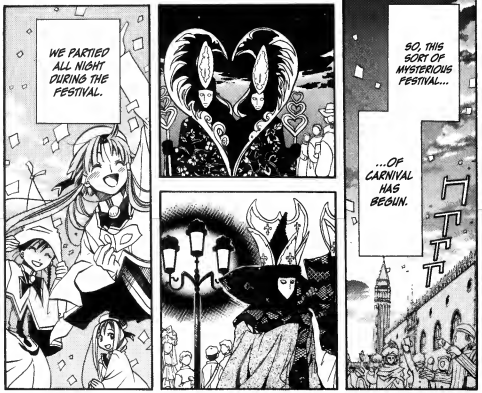
THEY SAY THAT THE PERSON WHO HAS THE ROLE HAS FULFILLED IT...
...SINCE WE STARTED HOLDING THIS CARNIVAL OVER 100 YEARS AGO.

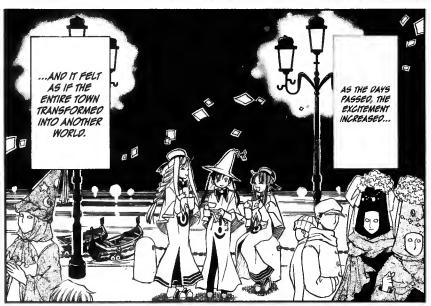
WOW! HE'S HUGE!

THE MOST POPULAR CARNIVAL FIGURE IN THIS TOWN ...
...CASANOVA.

ANYWAY, HE WAS FAMOUS FOR HIS SCANDALS.
HE WAS A PRISON ESCAPEE, EXTRAORDINARY SEDUCER...
...WRITER AND OCCASIONAL ADVENTURER.

CASANOVA WAS AN ACTUAL PERSON WHO LIVED IN 18TH-CENTURY VENICE ON MANHOME.

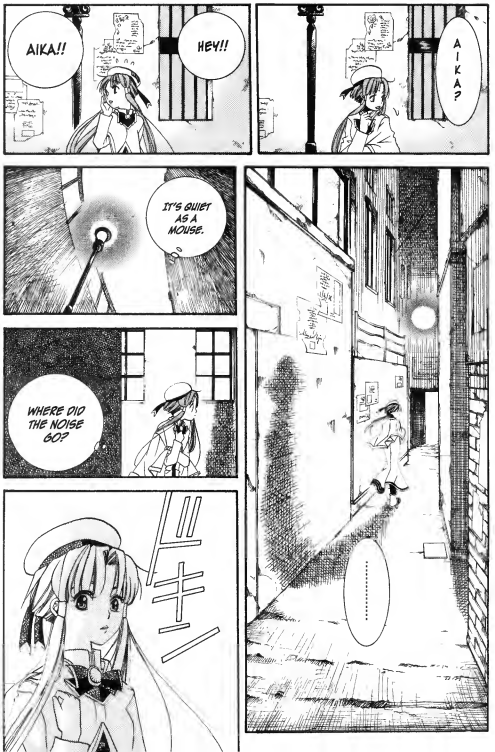

WE PARTIED ALL NIGHT DURING THE FESTIVAL.
SO, THIS SORT OF MYSTERIOUS FESTIVAL...
...OF CARNIVAL HAS BEGUN.


...AND IT FELT AS IF THE ENTIRE TOWN TRANSFORMED INTO ANOTHER WORLD.
AS THE DAYS PASSED, THE EXCITEMENT INCREASED...

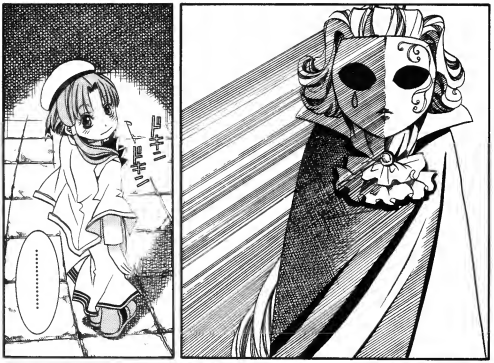
WELL, IT'S PROBABLY A HOAX TO GET ATTENTION.
WOW, THAT'S AMAZING.
A MASKED PHANTOM WHO'S LIVED OVER 100 YEARS, HUH?

VIVA CARNIVAL!
YEA!
わーい
Oh, hey!
BUT IT MAKES YOU WONDER ABOUT HIS IDENTITY.
...ON THE FIRST DAY.
Ha ha ha!
YOU WERE LUCKY TO PINO CASANOVA IN THIS CROWD...
Shake Shake
ラブ
ラブ
...AKARI?

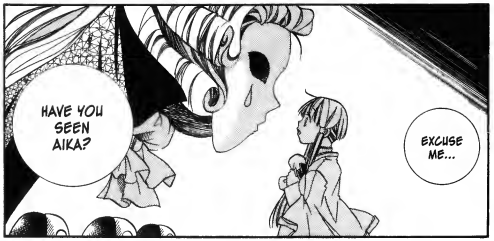
I'M SO WORN OUT!
ドドド

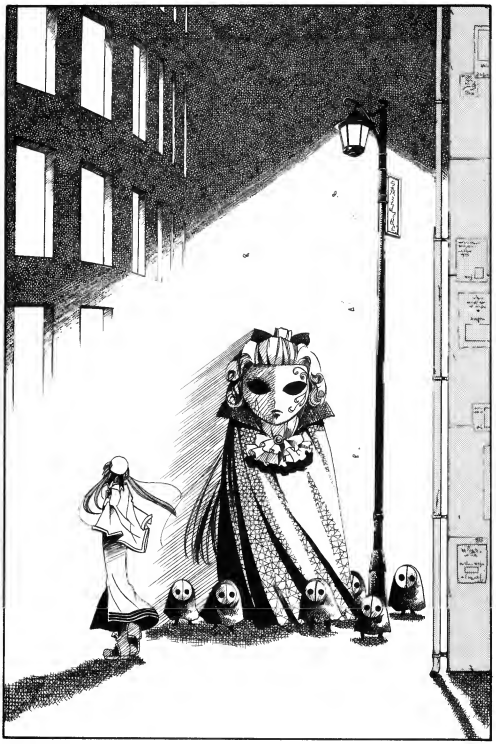

AIKA!!
HEY!!
AIKA?
IT'S QUIET AS A MOUSE.
WHERE DID THE NOISE GO?
ドキン
.....

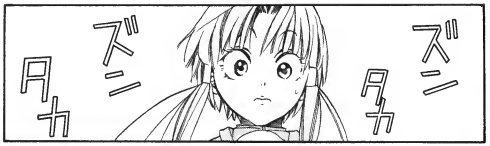
IT COULD MEAN BAD KARMA...
BESIDES, WHAT IF HE REALLY IS AN IMMORTAL FAIRY?
BUT, IT'S RUDE TO FOLLOW HIM.
OH?


……

G-GOOD EVENING, MR. CASANOVA.


HAVE YOU SEEN AIKA?
EXCUSE ME...

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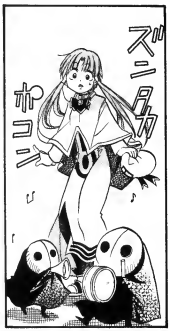
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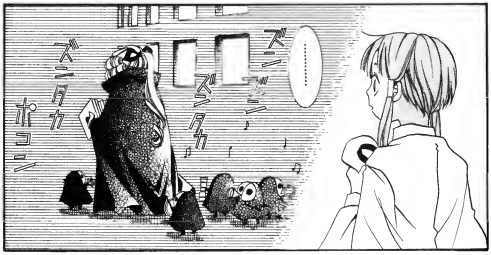
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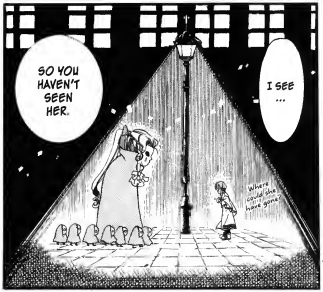
SO YOU HAVEN'T SEEN HER.
I SEE ...
What's left of the snow is gone.

SHE WAS DRESSED LIKE ME.

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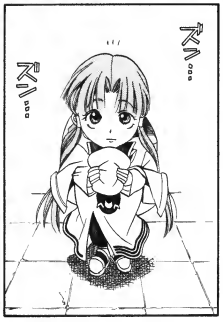
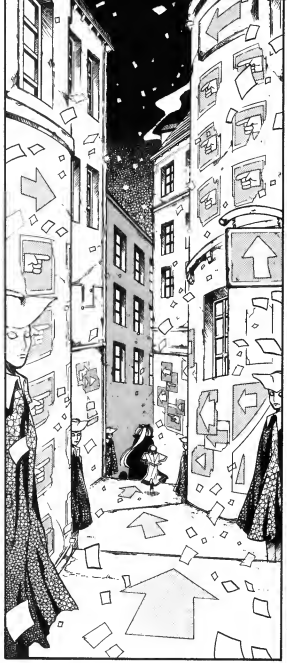
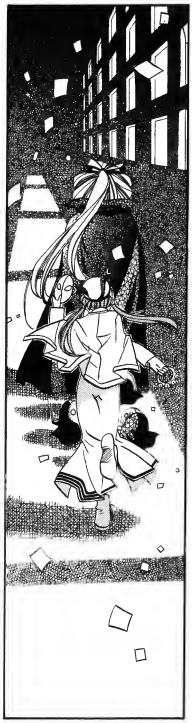
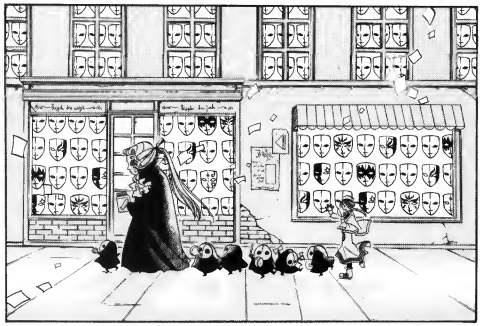

ズン…
ズン…

EH?
くいくい
！
スンタカスンタカ
ポコポコ
I CAN BE...PART OF THE PARADE?

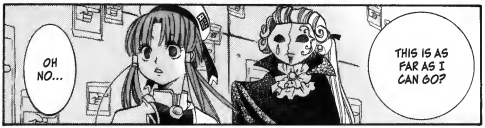






THANK YOU...
THIS IS FOR ME?

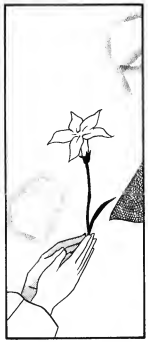
HUH?

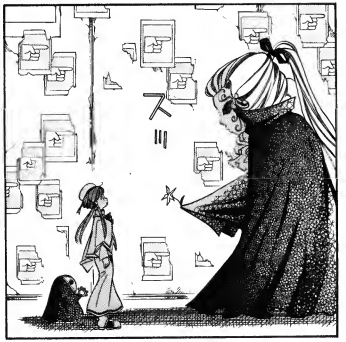

OH NO...
THIS IS AS FAR AS I CAN GO?

I WANT TO KEEP...
...FOLLOWING YOU.

WHY DID WE STOP?

!

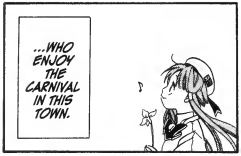




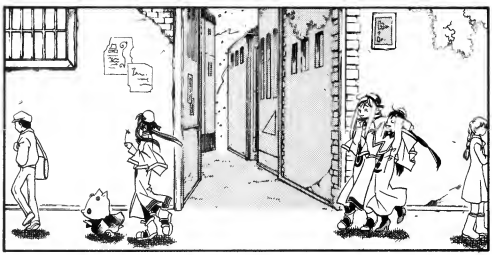
EH...
WHAT?
OH, WHY AM I HERE?
HUH?
PRESIDENT ARIA?

WHY ARE YOU TUGGING ON ME?
Squeak.
pnyu!

IT HAS A REALLY NICE FRAGRANCE.
WHAT'S THAT?
IT'S A JASMINE FLOWER.
SPEAKING OF CASANOVA...
...AKARI AND I TRAILED ONE OF HIS FOLLOWERS TODAY, BUT WE LOST HIM.
OH...
Really?!
IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, CASANOVA REGULARLY WEARS JASMINE PERFUME.
JUST KIDDING!
SO YOU MUST HAVE GOTTEN THAT JASMINE FLOWER FROM CASANOVA!
WHAT?!
You saw him?
THAT'S RIGHT.
THERE SHE IS!
WHERE COULD SHE HAVE GONE?
AH!
AKARI!!
AKARI!!
OH, PRESIDENT ARIA.
OH, IT'S AIKA AND ALICIA!
Jeez!
NYUU
YOU'RE BACK EARLY THIS YEAR.
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
WE'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU.


...WHO ENJOY THE CARNIVAL IN THIS TOWN.

Come on, tell me!
IT SEEMS IT'S NOT ONLY PEOPLE...



Oh my!
TELL ME...
...DID YOU FIND OUT HIS TRUE IDENTITY?

WAS HE ON STILTS?
RIDING ON SOMEONE'S SHOULDERS?

WHAT? DON'T TELL ME...
HE WASN'T AN IMMORTAL FAIRY, WAS HE?

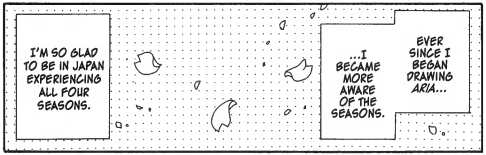
HUH?
YES, HE WAS.

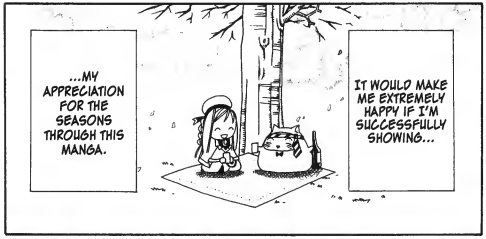
Flip
Yeah!

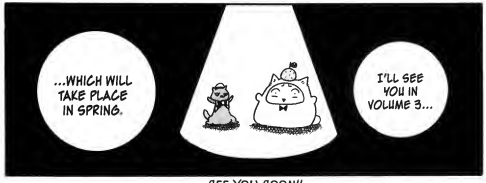
...IS LED BY CAIT SITH, THE KING OF CATS.
THE VERY MYSTERIOUS CASANOVA MARCHING BAND...

I HOPE I'LL SEE THEM AGAIN NEXT YEAR!
ARIA 2 The End

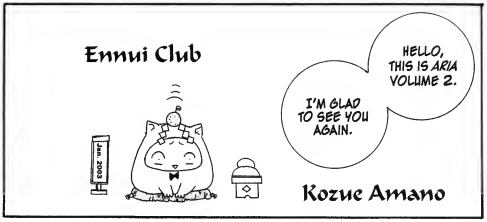
...IN MY OWN LIFE.
...I LOSE TRACK OF THE SEASONS...
SINCE IT TAKES A SINGLE SEASON TO DRAW EACH VOLUME, OR FIVE CHAPTERS...


I'M SO GLAD TO BE IN JAPAN EXPERIENCING ALL FOUR SEASONS.
...I BECAME MORE AWARE OF THE SEASONS.
EVER SINCE I BEGAN DRAWING ARIA...


...MY APPRECIATION FOR THE SEASONS THROUGH THIS MANGA.
IT WOULD MAKE ME EXTREMELY HAPPY IF I'M SUCCESSFULLY SHOWING...

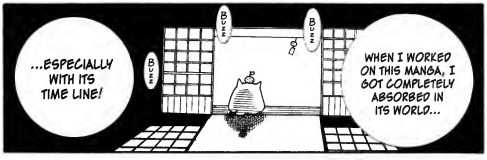

...WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN SPRING.
I'LL SEE YOU IN VOLUME 3...

SEE YOU SOON!!

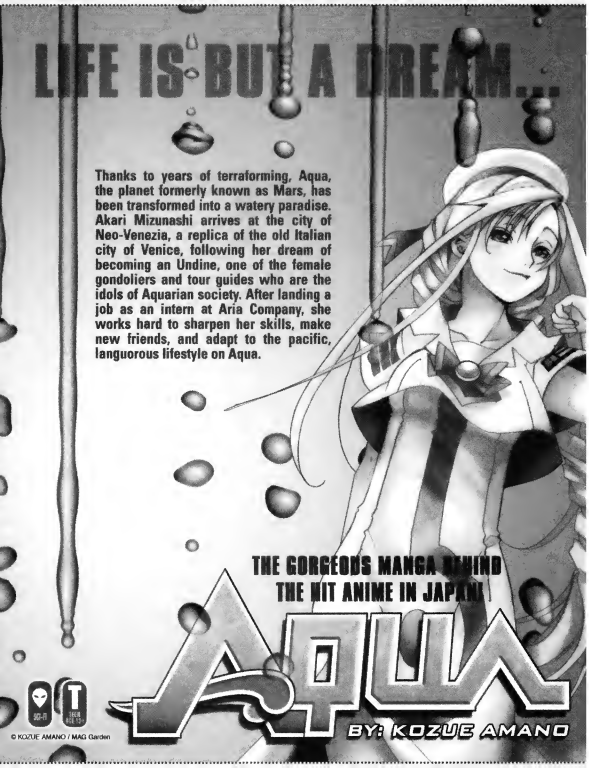

Ennui Club
HELLO, THIS IS ARIA VOLUME 2.
I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
Kozue Amano

IT WAS MIDSUMMER WHEN I DREW IT.

ALTHOUGH THIS VOLUME WAS FILLED WITH WINTER STORIES, IT WAS RELEASED IN MARCH.


...ESPECIALLY WITH ITS TIME LINE!
WHEN I WORKED ON THIS MANGA, I GOT COMPLETELY ABSORBED IN ITS WORLD...

...WE HAD AN INCIDENT LIKE THIS.
YES--I MEAN, WHAT?!
SO ONE DAY IN JUNE...
IT'LL BE GETTING COLD SOON.


LIFE IS BUT A DREAM...
Thanks to years of terraforming, Aqua, the planet formerly known as Mars, has been transformed into a watery paradise. Akari Mizunashi arrives at the city of Neo-Venezia, a replica of the old Italian city of Venice, following her dream of becoming an Undine, one of the female gondoliers and tour guides who are the idols of Aquarian society. After landing a job as an intern at Aria Company, she works hard to sharpen her skills, make new friends, and adapt to the pacific, languorous lifestyle on Aqua.
THE GORGEOUS MANGA BEHIND THE HIT ANIME IN JAPAN!
AQUA
BY: KOZUE AMANO
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ARIA

VOLUME 3 PREVIEW

The arrival of spring signals Akari's one-year anniversary on Aqua. But with it comes the introduction of a new trainee gondolier, Alice, whose natural talent could pose some real competition to other undines in training, much to Aika's irritation. We also get to learn about some of Alicia's and Aika's personal histories, and we'll follow Akari on a hunt with an old treasure map. Finally, when Neo-Venezia floods over, will Akatsuki finally get his chance to romance Alicia? Don't miss the continued wonders of the planet Aqua in the third volume of Aria!